THE WRESTLING PRESS

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FOR MATURE READERS

FOUR 'WHAT IFS' IN PRO WRESTLING

CHANGING WITH THE TIMES

HOGAN JOINS TNA

TWO McMAHON'S LEAVE WWE

GREAT NEWS FOR STEPHANIE !

INSIDE: ALL STAR INTERVIEW ■ SARAYA OUTBURST ■ BIGOTRY IN WRESTLING ■ MORE

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ISSUE 4
NOVEMBER 2009

"I have balls the size of grapefruits, and come this Sunday you'll be spitting out the seeds!"
VINCE MCMAHON

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World News

■ by Mike Aldren

Courtesy of
THE WRESTLING GLOBE Newsletter

Fozzy, Chris Jericho's band, releases their new and fourth album Chasing the Grail via Riot! Entertainment on January 26, 2010.

Hulk Hogan's book My Life Outside the Ring entered the New York Times hardcover nonfiction list at No. 12. This is a bad news for Hogan as the Mick Foley, Steve Austin and Ric Flair bios all entered The Times' best seller lists in higher positions with far less publicity going in.

Hulk Hogan has been claiming at booking signings that he was going to introduce Rob Van Dam to Dixie Carter and bring him to TNA. However, RVD has already met Dixie backstage at Bound for Glory!

The Chicago Tribune has a story on Hogan where he talks about how great a bass guitar player he is and once tried to land work with The Rolling Stones and Metallica, but the bands never called him back, and if they had, "I would have quit wrestling in a heartbeat."

Lacey Von Erich on Tammy Sytch: "I don't know who she is, nor have I followed her career. Everyone has a right to their opinions and the way they share them to the world. You could take the classy respectful way, or blast them on the internet, its all up to them. I ignore it, either way."

Lilian Garcia has been assaulted on the streets of New York City during a Yankees ticker tape parade. Somebody tried to snatch her cell phone but she held on tightly and was thrown to the floor. She filed a police report and cops are hoping to catch the culprit from CCTV footage.

Beer Money's James Storm appears to have upset a former lady friend as nude photos of him have surfaced on the Internet during the past couple of days.

During an investors conference call Vince McMahon said of his wife and son leaving the company: "We've lost Linda in terms of her CEO role of course which I have assumed, she still sits on the Board. The other aspect of family, some people perceive this to be a family business, which I do not. But nonetheless, my son Shane as well has decided to pursue other opportunities in the marketplace... And if your last name is McMahon or not, decisions are always made on your abilities [within WWE] in terms of whatever position you hold now and/or will in the future and be judged on your performance, not because your last name is McMahon."

Vince also talked about a "revised film philosophy and practice" which will be to concentrate on movies with a $5 million budget and roll them out quickly direct-to-video rather than produce big budget theatrical releases.

WWE Studios has optioned a straight to DVD western set in the 1800s about an Undertaker. No prizes for gussing who they have in mind for the role!

Dixie Carter on her Twitter hinted she is talking Shannon Moore and said she doubted his TNA days were over.

ODB has signed a new multi-year deal with TNA.

Candice Michelle has announced that she is pregnant.

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HULKAMANIA MAKING AN iMPACT!

| By STEVE ASHFIELD (News Editor) - mageditoruk@googlemail.com |

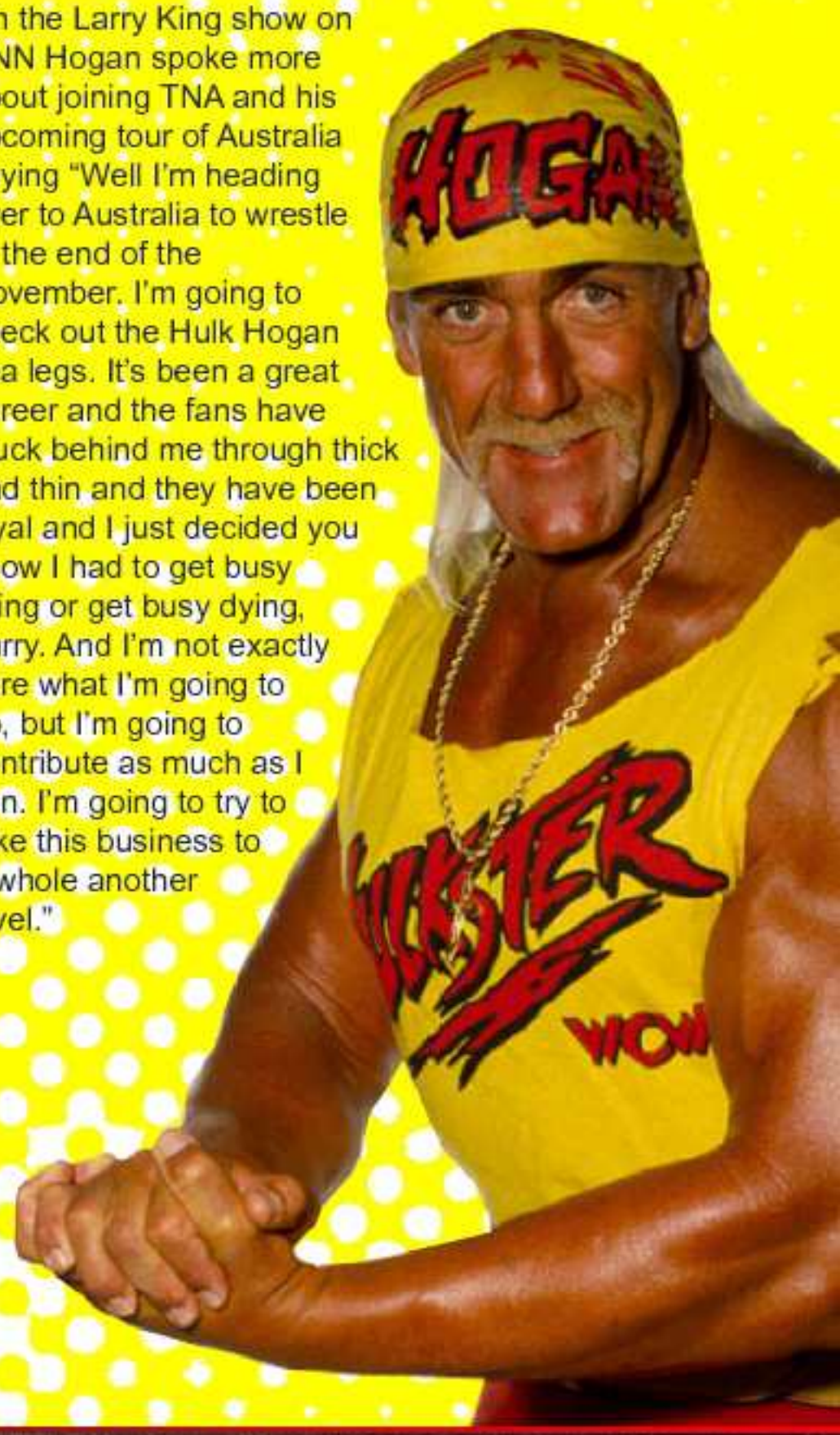
"Our goal is to become the world's biggest professional wrestling company." That's the words of Dixie Carter, the President of TNA Wrestling, at the press conference held in New York on October 28th called to announce the biggest signing in the history of the company. More immense than the signings of Sting and Kurt Angle, TNA now believe that to get to the next level and to achieve their goal 'Hulk Hogan is the answer.

The end of November sees Hogan return to the ring with a series of shows in Australia with the promotion he's started with Eric Bischoff. With that on the horizon it was perhaps surprising that a month before those shows it was announced that both Hogan and Bischoff would be joining TNA

Making the announcement Dixie Carter said "Hulk Hogan is one of the world's top pop culture icons and the biggest superstar in the history of professional wrestling. We are truly excited to welcome him into the TNA family." Carter added that she looked forward to working with Hogan "in a variety of ways as we continue to grow TNA globally." The deal certainly impressed Spike TV with their President, Kevin Kay, telling the press conference "Hulk Hogan adds yet another level of star power that positions TNA iMPACT as Spike TV's version of 'Must-See TV' on Thursday nights.

So what did the man himself have to say about joining TNA? Hogan told the press conference "I'm thrilled to be jumping back into the world of professional wrestling. "My fans have been asking me to return to the business for many years on a full time basis, but the timing or the opportunity has never been right until now. TNA Wrestling is a great company with an already excellent fan base, business and broadcast partner. I firmly believe now is the time for some change at TNA as they are positioned to jump to the next level in their development and I'm here to work with Dixie to help make that a reality."

On the Larry King show on CNN Hogan spoke more about joining TNA and his upcoming tour of Australia saying "Well I'm heading over to Australia to wrestle at the end of the November. I'm going to check out the Hulk Hogan sea legs. It's been a great career and the fans have stuck behind me through thick and thin and they have been loyal and I just decided you know I had to get busy living or get busy dying, Larry. And I'm not exactly sure what I'm going to do, but I'm going to contribute as much as I can. I'm going to try to take this business to a whole another level."



So just how will the arrival of Hogan and Bischoff change TNA? Can it increase the ratings on a Thursday night and even break the 2.0 mark? Hogan joining TNA certainly raises a lot of questions that's for sure, as does the link with Bischoff. This isn't like Bischoff joining WWE as an on-screen character who does what the script tells him to however humiliating the consequences. Hogan is in partnership with Bischoff Hervey Entertainment Television and this deal will see BHE TV working with TNA to develop new programming extensions of the TNA brand. That could mean more TV shows and perhaps the rumoured show dedicated to TNA Knockouts might become a reality, and perhaps one for a revamped X-Division, both of which would certainly have their fans.

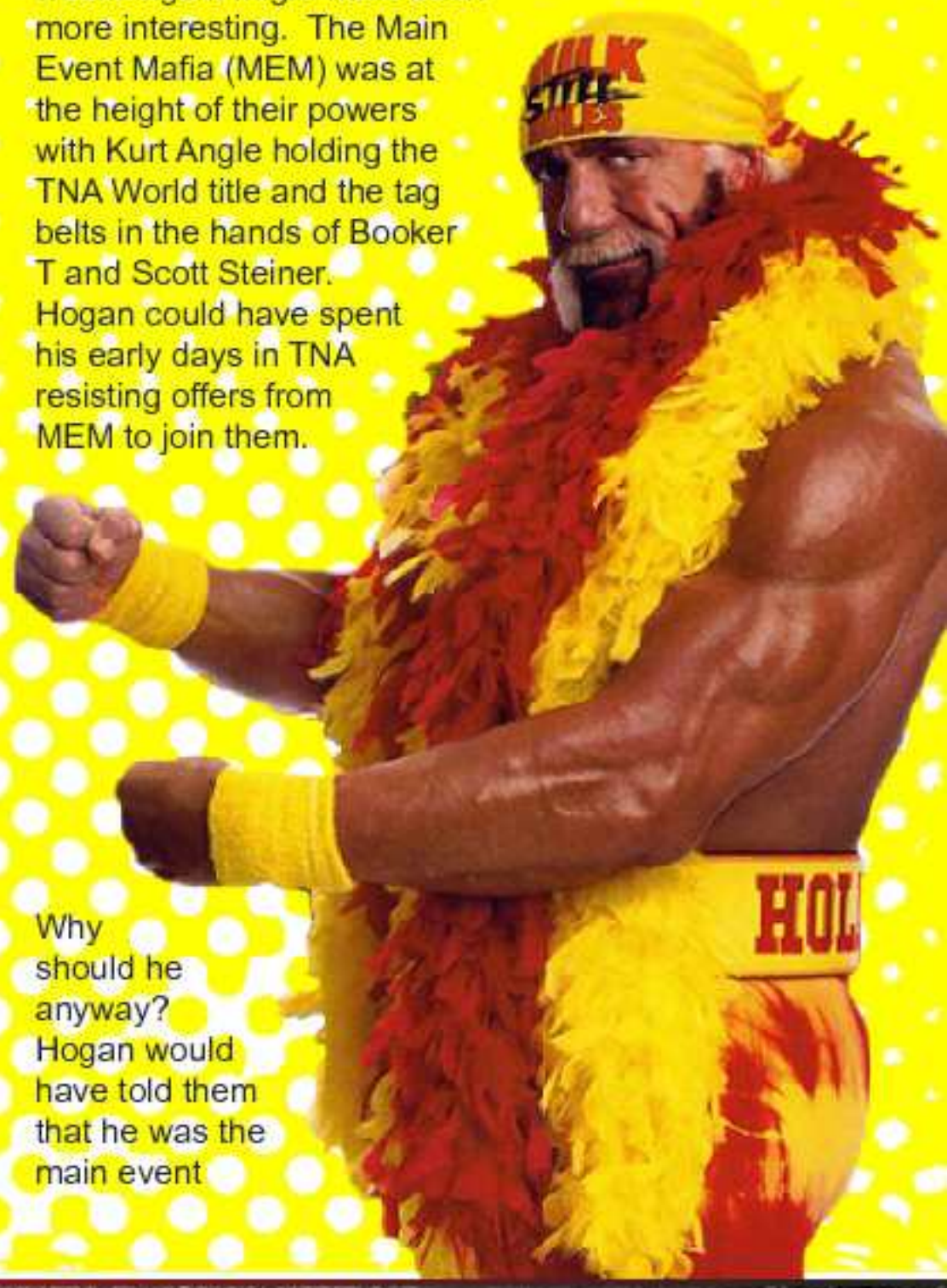
Hogan hasn't been seen in the ring for some time and that's a major problem for TNA already. He may be a legend in professional wrestling but let's face it, he's never been great in the ring. Hogan the personality isn't as strong as it used to be either. This is a man who's just put out a second autobiography and there's plenty of scandal for fans to read about. Whether it's drugs, suicide attempts or a messy divorce Hogan certainly isn't the clean cut hero that he used to be, and probably never was.

So what can Hogan do in TNA? Similarities with WCW have to be made of course. I know of one wrestling columnist who already describes their show as 'WCW Thunder' and with Hogan and Bischoff on board that's becoming more an accurate description as the days go by. The last PPV was headlined by Sting, they already have Kevin Nash and Scott Steiner and now two more of their friends are in TNA.Oh and of course there's a certain Vince Russo who Hogan definitely isn't going to be partying with after the tapings end.

Hogan and Russo have a chequered history to say the least and many are surprised that Russo is still in TNA now Hogan and Bischoff have been signed. Hogan will have creative control over what he does and that may or may not be a good thing. I doubt he's in TNA to be anything but a main eventer and the company will do everything they can to put him in prominent positions on PPVs to garner the higher buy rates they've been chasing for ages.

First question that has to be answered is why has Hogan decided to come back now? He's one of those guys who need to be in the spotlight. A Hulkamania tour of Australia might be a success but he must know that doing the same in the States wouldn't be an easy task and wouldn't reach the levels he's used to operating at. WWE haven't made the offer so TNA is the only option. Oh and the fact he's got a book to promote has to be more than a coincidence doesn't it?

To the ring now and does Hogan work as a face or a heel? It was Hogan as a face that gave WWE its big push in the 80s and it was Hogan as a heel that revolutionized WCW. I can't imagine Hogan being a heel in TNA, well not until the inevitable early rise in viewers begins to fade away. Hogan as a face is the way to go, a desperate attempt to recreate the Hulkamania days. If this had happened a few weeks ago it might have been more interesting. The Main Event Mafia (MEM) was at the height of their powers with Kurt Angle holding the TNA World title and the tag belts in the hands of Booker T and Scott Steiner. Hogan could have spent his early days in TNA resisting offers from MEM to join them.



Why should he anyway? Hogan would have told them that he was the main event

before most of them even made their pro debuts and he doesn't need them. Hogan supporting and pushing the younger members of the TNA roster, i.e. those who aren't just former WWE personnel, would help the company in the long run. Now though Angle has told the fans how he now respects the younger wrestlers in TNA and is in a feud with newcomer Desmond Wolfe (aka Nigel McGuinness) and ended a recent show being carried out on a stretcher. Hogan v Angle doesn't look like happening for some time. But if rumours persist that someone is behind Wolfe's sudden arrival and the attack on Angle, could that be Hogan? Of course it's most likely going to be Jeff Jarrett but things could change, you never know.

So what will this do to the current TNA World Champion AJ Styles? I can't see Styles v Hogan happening just yet either, but perhaps Hogan will find himself teaming up with the champion against perhaps a team comprised of his mystery attacker and a partner.

Kevin Nash was TNA Legends champion until losing it at 'Bound For Glory' and that title doesn't even exist now having been changed to the 'Global title' by new holder Eric Young. A feud with Nash over the Legends belt would have been logical and at least keep Hogan away from the World title and give Styles a chance to get over with the new fans Hogan's arrival will bring. Hogan v Nash in a Survival of the Slowest encounter could still happen one day but if fans saw that would they be prepared to come back and buy another PPV? The same applies to any thought of a Hogan v Steiner clash. A clash with Samoa Joe is something we've never had the chance to see before and putting Mick Foley in the mix is likely at some point in time. The arrival of Hogan could get Sting interested again and a Hogan v Abyss clash wouldn't be that horrific.

There's certainly enough matches there to keep Hogan going. He isn't going to be the kind of guy who wrestles every Thursday week that's for sure, but his work on the microphone will keep the fans tuning in and of course pushing the next PPV to the hilt.

So what about Ric Flair? Hogan is working against him in Australia at the end of November (something the TNA schedule will allow him to do at the moment until the company considers changing to live weekly shows rather than taped events) and apparently Flair has some TV deal linked in with Hogan. So will Flair move to TNA? The arrival of Hogan in TNA isn't going to please Vince McMahon a great deal I imagine, though TNA are far from being a threat to WWE at present, but then again neither were WCW before Hogan joined them. Flair joining and perhaps even wrestling again will really cheese Vince off. But would the prospect of another Hogan v Flair match really get the fans buying PPVs 18 years after they first started appearing together in WWE? Hogan v Flair is what I call a '100 match', it's one of those encounters where the combined age of both wrestlers reaches three figures and that's not the way to take TNA forward.

One early victim of Hogan's arrival could be Nigel McGuinness, or as we now know him, Desmond Wolfe. Everyone thought the former ROH World Champion was on his way to WWE and then all of sudden he turned up in TNA and attacked Kurt Angle. No way at all would he have been given such a high profile debut in WWE and if he had he'd have been resented by plenty of the locker room. So there he is attacking Angle one week and facing him in a Street Fight in the main event of the episode shown in the UK (great timing for Virgin One who are

showing the programme for the next few weeks) on October 30th. Any other week he'd have been the biggest story in TNA after destroying Angle. Will fans remember that episode for Desmond Wolfe or the fact Hogan's arrival is announced, we all know it'll be the latter. It'll be interesting to see what happens to Wolfe in the coming weeks as attention turns to promoting Hogan.

Desmond Wolfe - **TNAwrestling.com**

Professional wrestling in the States does need more competition between the larger companies. WWE is in a situation at present where it's finding it difficult to create new stars and the main event is just being dominated by a select number of wrestlers. A growing TNA could find itself attracting fans who are becoming disillusioned with WWE but they need more than Hogan to achieve that. What if Hogan gets injured in a few months time, what on earth do they do then? That has to be a possibility, the guy is on his way towards 60 and his body probably cried enough is enough a fair while ago.

Hogan joining TNA is a massive gamble. Initially it'll get the ratings up but will the fans stay with the product? Will they put up with the booking of Vince Russo and the large amount of chat that's on a two-hour show staged by a company with the name 'Total Nonstop Action.' The two-hour show seen on Virgin 1 on October 30th had about half an hour of actual wrestling and that's not enough. They need to get Styles in the ring defending his title, not being attacked backstage every week. And for God's sake stop Doug Williams pulling silly faces, and why do we need two tag belts anyway? Only time will tell, but that goal Dixie Carter has set TNA still looks as unlikely as it did at the start of the week.

HOGAN REACTION

The announcement that Hulk Hogan was joining TNA has of course provoked plenty of reaction from the wrestling world, some of it good and some of it not so complementary.

Jim Ross writing in his blog at www.jrsbarbq.com described Hogan as "one of the greatest, self promoters of all time….Brother".

Vickie Guerrero wasn't quite so pleasant with her Facebook comments: "Hulk can kiss my ass! He will use TNA as well."

That's nothing though compared to the view of The Honky Tonk Man, who let's face it barely ever has a good word to say about anyone but himself. He claimed the new acquisitions meant "the end of TNA" and accused Hogan of being a "double agent" as "WWE kills from the insides you idiots" adding "Do you think for one minute WWE is going to let Hogan and Flair tour the world for TNA? Not going to happen."

Lance Storm has been a big critic of TNA in recent months because of their booking rather than what he calls "their extremely talented locker room." Perhaps believing the arrival of Hogan will eventually mean the departure of Vince Russo, Storm said "While there are some potential down sides to the addition of Hogan and Bischoff to TNA, there are several potential up sides as well, and I'm going to keep my fingers crossed for more of the latter and less of the former."

STATE OF INDEPENDENTS

| By STEVE ASHFIELD (News Editor) - mageditoruk@googlemail.com |

American News

***Dragon Gate USA** hold their 'Open the Freedom Gate' title tournament at The Arena in Philadelphia on November 28th. Confirmed for the first round is CIMA v Super Crazy v Mike Quackenbush in a 'Salute to Skayde' match. The bonus match for Golden Circle ticket holders sees Eddie Kingston (right) take on Hallowicked. The 'Open The Historic Gate' double DVD is now available from the website*

Dragon Gate USA have also announced two shows at the Celebrity Theatre in Phoenix on March 26th and 27th 2010. Davey Richards and The Young Bucks are already confirmed for the shows that take place over WrestleMania weekend. More info at www.dgusa.tv

Gabe Sapolsky and Davey Richards are to launch a new promotion called EVOLVE next January. More information at www.evolvewrestling.com.

The 'Hulkamania – Let the Battle Begin' tour of Australia takes place this month with shows in Melbourne (21st), Perth (24th), Brisbane (26th) and Sydney (28th). Confirmed for the tour are Ric Flair, Brutus 'The Barber' Beefcake, Kishi, Mr Ken Anderson, Shannon Moore, Heidenreich, The Nasty Boys, Black Pearl, Vampire Warrior, Orlando Jordan, Val Venis, Jimmy Hart, Lacey Von Erich, Paul London and U-Gene.

The main event sees Hulk Hogan take on Ric Flair so those of who you had November 2009 in the 'when will Flair make his return to the ring' sweepstake can go and collect your winnings now. More info at www.hulkamania.com.au

Nick Logan won the 2009 ECWA Super 8 tournament held at the Greater Newark Boys' and Girls' Club in Newark on October 10th. Logan beat Tomasso Ciampa in the final after earlier defeating Prince Nana and Quiet Storm.

Also on the card the Logan Brothers won the tag titles from The Arion Brothers.

CZW held 'Severed Ties' on October 10th with Drake Younger beating B-Boy to keep his World Heavyweight title, The Best Around held onto their tag belts with a win over BLK OUT and Drew Blood beating Ryan McBride to retain his CZW World Junior Heavyweight title. Also on the card H8 Club and Jon Moxley beat DJ Hyde, xOMGx and Scotty Vortekz in a Fans Bring the Weapons match and Sami Callihan beat Eddie Kingston. Pre-Show Rich Swann and Adam Cole won matches to reach the next round of the Wired TV Title tournament.
'TOD Rewind' took place on October 25th in Delaware with Thumbtack Jack winning the tournament and the UVU title beating MASADA in the final. The next show is 'Night of Infamy' at The Arena in Philadelphia on November 14th. Drake Younger, Eddie Kingston and DJ Hyde take on Jon Moxley and the H8 Club in DJ Hyde's Elimination Challenge. B-Boy faces Dan Maff, Drew Blood defends his Junior Heavyweight belt against Jason Hades and the winner faces the victor of a bout between Greg Excellent and Ryan McBride at 'Cage of Death.; More info at www.czwrestling.com

PWG hold 'The Battle of LA' on November 20th and 21st with the winner becoming the new PWG World Heavyweight Champion.
More info at
www.prowrestlingguerrilla.com/2009BOLA

Dan Maff (right) retained the JAPW World Heavweight title when he beat Bandido Jr (who'd earlier won the Jersey City Rumble to earn his title shot) on October 17th at 'Halloween Hell'. Post match both champion and challenger were attacked by B-Boy before Azriel made the save.
Also on the card The Necro Butcher and B.G. James beat The Garden State Gods and Sara Del Rey beat Roxxie Cotton to retain her JAPW Women's title. Their next show is at the Rec Center in Rahway on November 21st with Dan Maff defending his JAPW World Heavyweight title against Christopher Daniels, The Hillbilly Wrecking Crew put their tag belts on the line against The H8 Club, Archadia defends his NJ State title against Rhett Titus and The New Age Outlaws face The South Side Playaz Club. More info at www.japw.net

The post McGuinness/Danielson era began in ROH with a show at the Gateway Center in Collinsville on October 9th. ROH World Champion Austin Aries got a win over Delirious, The Briscoe Brothers beat The House of Truth, Kenny Omega got a win over Davey Richards, Tyler Black beat Chris Hero and SHIMMER Champion MsChif beat Nicole Matthews.
The following night in Indiana it was Tyler Black who won the Survival of the Fittest match and earned himself a World title shot beating Colt Cabana, Roderick Strong, Claudio Castagnoli, Delirious and Chris Hero. Strong was the last man eliminated. Also on the card The Briscoes beat Austin Aries and Davey Richards after Aries walked out on his partner.
The ROH/HDNet Pick 6 Contenders Series ensures that current ROH World Champion Austin Aries will no longer be able to choose his challengers simply by drawing names out of a hat. Only wrestlers in the Pick 6 will be eligible to challenge for the belt with rankings updated after every event. The top contenders at present are Delirious, Tyler Black, Colt Cabana, Jay Briscoe, Kenny Omega & Roderick Strong.
KENTA has had to pull out of his scheduled appearances for ROH this month. The Japanese star suffered a torn ACL during a match against Kotaro Suzuki on a Pro Wrestling NOAH card held on October 29th and is likely to be out of action for six months.
Austin Aries puts his ROH World title on the line against Davey Richards in Detroit on November 13th, it's The Young Bucks v Kevin Steen and El Generico and Roderick Strong is up against Chris Hero. The following day ROH are in Mississauga, Ontario with Aries due to defend his title if still champion. If Richards wins the belt he won't make his first defence until December as he'll be on his way to the UK for the 1PW show. Also confirmed is Tyler Black v Roderick Strong and Kevin Steen v Chris Hero while The Super Smash Brothers take on Kenny King and Rhett Titus.
ROH are to work with Mexican company AAA with Alex Koslov and Rocky Romero confirmed for 'Final Battle.'Also confirmed for 'Final Battle' in Manhattan on December 19th is The American Wolves defending their tag belts against The Briscoes.

On October 17th CHIKARA were in Easton, results included Mike Quackenbush beating Sal Rinaruo to retain his NWA World Junior Heavyweight title, Player Dos beat Frightmare to keep the Young Lions Cup and The Colony beat Brodie Lee and Grizzly Redwood to retain their Campeonatos de Parejas title. The sixth annual Torneo Cibernetico match took place at The Arena in South Philadelhia on October 18th with Carpenter Ant coming out as the winner after 51 minutes when he pinned Soldier Ant.

The final shows of the year take place at the Palmer Center in Easton on November 21st followed by 'Three Fisted Tales' at The Arena in South Philadelphia the following day. Three matches have so far been confirmed for the 21st, Hydra takes on Tim Donst in a Loser Leaves CHIKARA match, Player Dos faces Yujiro Kushida and the team of Dasher Hatfield and Sugar Dunkerton are up against F.I.S.T.
More information at www.chikarapro.com

Rachael Moore won the BANG Women's title when she beat 'The Claw' Claudia Reiff, Charlotte Mahoy, Sar-Ah and Melissa Coates on October 17th at the Funking Conservatory Wrestling School.
Also on the card Coates and Reiff beat Moore and Mahoy to win the women's tag titles. Shane Chung beat Jumbo Elvis Sharp and Blain Rage to retain his World title on the same card. The next BANG TV tapings are on November 21st, more info at www.dory-funk.com

Insanity Pro Wrestling held a Super Junior Heavyweight tournament in Indianapolis on November 7th. Dustin Rayz won the tournament and the vacant IPW Junior Heavyweight title when he beat B-Boy in the final. He'd earlier beaten Marion Fontaine in the first round and Tim Donst and Richochet in a three-way second round match.

UK stars Dave Moralez and Team Blossom are in OVW at present with Moralez wrestling under the name of Dave Mastiff and getting a series of submission victories so far while Hannah (or is it Holly?) Blossom winning the Women's title from Epiphany on October 7th. More info and downloads of TV episodes at www.ovwrestling.com

The seventh annual Jeff Peterson Memorial Cup takes place on November 20th and 21st at the Brooksville, Florida and Crystal River, Florida National Guard Armories respectively.
The tournament is held in memory of 'The All American' Jeff Peterson who died from cancer in November 2002. Previous winners of the tournament include Chris Sabin, Erick Stevens and Chris Hero (pictured. This year's recipient will be All Children's Hospital in St. Petersburg, FL.
The 16-man tournament comprises of four wrestlers each from FIP, CZW, AAW and Hybrid Pro Wrestling.
Confirmed names include Davey Richards (current FIP World Heavyweight Champion), Drake Younger (CZW World Heavyweight Champion), Egotistico Fantastico (CZW), Johnny Gargano (AAW) and Arik Cannon (AAW). Representing Hybrid Pro Wrestling are Flip Kendrick, Dave Cole, Marion Fontaine and Louis Lyndon. For more information about the Jeff Peterson Memorial Cup Tournament, visit www.jpc2009.com.

Just a couple of months after saying the company had shut down, IWA:MS are due to make their return on November 20th with 'Chapter 2: In The Beginning' at the Addison Park District Community Rec Center.
The main event sees The Necro Butcher take on Osiris, Jason Hades defends his World Light Heavyweight title against Sal Thomaselli, Prince Mustafa Ali faces Ricochet and there's a six-man tag match as The Hooligans take on The Soul Touchaz with more to be announced.

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AROUND THE HALLS

| By STEVE ASHFIELD (News Editor) - mageditoruk@googlemail.com |

British News

***WWE** returned to the UK this month with Raw holding shows in Glasgow, Newcastle, Liverpool, Minehead and Sheffield. Main events on the house shows saw wins for John Cena and DX over Legacy, Sheamus beating Primo Colon and Paul Burchill defeating The Hurricane. Raw was held in Sheffield on November 9th with DX beating Chris Jericho and Big Show, Randy Orton beating Mark Henry and guest host Ricky Hatton knocking out Chavo Guerrero. New LDN British Heavyweight Champion David DeVille lost to Sheamus.*
Smackdown were in Cardiff and Nottingham with The Undertaker beating CM Punk in casket matches and Michelle McCool retaining her Women's title against Beth Phoenix and Mickie James.

The main events for the TNA UK tour have been announced.
In Glasgow on January 23rd it's a Tag Team Tables match between Team 3D and The British Invasion. In Bournemouth on the 26th Samoa Joe faces Bobby Lashley in an "I Quit" match. The following day in Cardiff, The British Invasion take on Beer Money Inc. The main event in Coventry on the 28th sees an Eight-Man Gauntlet match as World Elite face Team 3D and Beer Money Inc and in Manchester on the 29th there's a

British Invasion - TNAwrestling.com

five-man ladder match as current TNA World Champion AJ Styles faces Kurt Angle, Bobby Lashley, Samoa Joe and Hernandez. The tour ends in London on the 30th with an Ultimate X match between Chris Sabin, Suicide, Daniels and Alex Shelley. More info at www.tnawrestling.com

Dragon Gate Invasion UK took place in front of a sell-out crowd at The Regal in Oxford on November 1st. Naruki Doi, BxB Hulk and Pac beat The Young Bucks and CIMA, Susumu Yooksuka beat Shingo, Dragon Kid got a win over Masato Yoshino, Mark Haskins won an international challenge against Kagetora and Real Hazard (Ryo Saito and Genki Horiguchi) defeated Team UK (Jonny Storm and Marty Scurll). The dark match saw Lion Kid beat Stixx.

Rob Van Dam faces Davey Richards at the 1PW Fourth Anniversary Show due to take place at the Doncaster Dome on November 15th. Lionheart takes on Jimmy Jacobs and a win for the Scotsman will earn him a match against Adam Curtis on a future show.

The 1PW World Heavyweight title will be on the line in a Double Jeopardy match featuring defending champion Martin Stone, Sterling James Keenan, Ulf Hermann and Steve Corino. This unique format sees Wrestler A face Wrestler B and Wrestler C face Wrestler D with the two winners meeting for the title but both matches take place at the same time. More details on the pairings soon at www.1pwonline.com.

The Prophets of Liberty take on Ruffneck and Iceman in a three on two Survival of the Sickest rules match. TNA star Nigel McGuinness has vacated the 1PW Openweight title. As a result a Ten-Man Gauntlet is being held for the vacant Openweight title with Darkside, The Juice, Danny Hope, T-Bone, Rockstar Spud, Mark Sloan, El Ligero and Wade Fitzgerald confirmed so far. Project Ego defend their 1PW World tag team titles against Fight Club and Kevin Thorne faces Kris Travis. Also due to appear are: Mad Man Manson and Greg Burridge. The last remaining floor and tier seats can only be purchased on the door but tickets can be reserved by emailing danny@oneprowrestling.com

The afternoon of the 4th Anniversary Show sees Pro Wrestling101 holding 'A Perfect Twist of Fate' at the Doncaster Dome starting at 1.30pm with front row tickets costing just £12 and General admission £8.

Steve Corino takes on Martin Kirby, it's Lionheart v Davey Richards, Ruckus faces Sabian, El Ligero, The Juice, Kid Fite and Liam Thompson in a No Gravity Required match, Joey Hayes has a rematch with Terry Frazier, the team of Keith Myatt, Teeny and Tiny are up against Sykes, Mo Montana and Havok, Wade Fitzgerald challenges Martin Stone and Greg Burridge will be the special guest of honour.

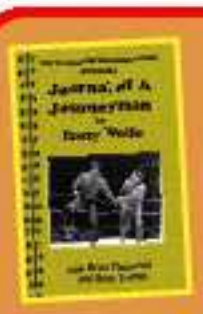
The night before there's an interactive event/party/Q&A at the VIP Bar at the Doncaster Dome starting at 6.30pm. The late change of venue means the four matches scheduled to take place have been cancelled. There will be a Q&A with Steve Corino, contract signings for the matches between Corino and Kirby and Myatt and Sykes and a Meet and Greet plus a DJ. Tickets cost £7 and can be reserved by emailing info@prowrestling101.co.uk Earlier in the day Corino will be holding a training seminar from 2pm to 5pm costing £20.

The FWA World Heavyweight title tournament continues when the company holds 'Hotwired' at the Sport Nottingham Leisure Complex on Sunday 29th November.

The semi-finals take place and it's Martin Stone v Johnny Moss and Bubblegum v Andrew Simmons. Also confirmed fro the show is the return of El Ligero who'll be competing in a final qualifying match for the FWA Flyweight Round Robin tournament though no opponent has yet been confirmed. Tickets for the show are available at www.fwauk.com with Gold Ringside tickets costing £18.50, General admission tickets are £12 for adults and £8 for concessions and a family ticket costs £32.

GPW hold their Crazy Cruiser 8 tournament on November 13th and at the Monaco Ballroom in Wigan on October 16th the final spots in the tournament were confirmed.

The good news for 'The Juice' CJ Banks isn't that he won his match to keep his tournament spot but that in doing



IN HIS BOOK, YOU WILL LEARN HOW DUSTY worked his way through the territories of wrestling during a time when Vince McMahon was taking his World Wrestling Federation to unforeseen heights. His years of working regularly for the WWF are covered and you'll learn how Dusty was given the task of helping Tiny Lister (Zeus) prepare for a main event run against Hulk Hogan in 1989.

Journal of a Journeyman - Available from www.rasslinriotonline.com - $19.99

so he also won the GPW British title from Sam Bailey. Martin Kirby was the fans choice for a place in the Crazy Cruiser tournament, Dylan Roberts also qualified after a DQ win over Dirk Feelgood after he was attacked by Cameron Kraze and Fox Carter won the Battle Royal to also earn a spot in the tournament. They join Joey Hayes, Ricky J Mckenzie, Bubblegum and Dutch wrestler Max Damon. More info at www.gpwrestling.org.uk

Raven is back in the UK in December and he's been confirmed to appear for Phoenix Pro Wrestling on the 14th at the Wulfrun Hall in Wolverhampton.
The former WWE and ECW star faces Jonny Storm and other matches confirmed for the show include Hubba Bubba Lucha facing The Leaders of the New School and The Hunter Brothers, Lisa Fury taking on Jetta and Brandon Thomas is up against Kid Fite in a best of three falls encounter. Spud and 'Gentleman' Gilligan Gordon are also due to appear, more information at www,ppw.webeden.co.uk and www.wolvescivic.co.uk

Kerry Cabrero won the EWW World Heavyweight title when he beat defending Champion The Dominator in Herne Bay.
The EWW St. George's title also changed hands when Sebastian P Sterling beat Andy 'Boy' Simmonz and a first ever EWW British Women's Champion was crowned when Skarlett beat Erin Angel and Jetta The show had a EWW v NCW:UK theme and other results saw wins for EWW as Billy Reynolds beat Stefan Hard and Exodus defeated Johnny Love.

3CW made their debut in Scotland on October 16th when they held 'International Wrestling Classic' at the Theatre Royal in Dumfries.
Darkside beat Johnny Moss to retain the 3CW title and also win the Caledonian Cup. Also on the show Anthony McIntryre beat Andy Swan, The Lost beat Highlander and Stuart Woods, Chris Whitton defeated Liam Thompson and the team of Jayson Mayson and Sean David beat The Hunter Grange Experience. More info at www.3countwrestling.co.uk

All-Star have a great line-up on tour at the moment with Tatanka, American Avalanche, Ricky Steamboat Jr and The Hellvetic Warriors all making regular appearances.
Recent results have included Tatanka teaming up with Deano to beat The Hellvetic Warriors in Cannock on October 13th while on the same card WWE bound Goliath went to a double count out with American Avalanche. At the Pacific Complex in Birkenhead on October 2nd Robbie Dynamite beat Deano in a ladder match for the British Mid Heavyweight title. Robbie Brookside continued his comeback when he teamed up with Frankie Sloane and David Taylor at the Liverpool Empire on October to beat American Avalanche, Mikey Whiplash and 'The Space Cowboy' Damon Brix in a six-man Over the top rope elimination match.
The Flatliner made a return to the ring at the recent show held in Fareham, He's been out of the ring for most of 2009 after an illness that left him in intensive care. ROH star Jimmy Jacobs is also making appearances on ASW cards beginning with a loss to Ricky Steamboat Jr in Leamington Spa on October 27th Also on that card 'The British Invasion' beat James Mason and Domino while ASW Heavyweight Champion Rampage Brown defeated Robbie Dynamite. El Generico also made some appearances for the company in the last week of October going down in defeat to Mikey Whiplash in Aylesbury and Karl Krammer in Leamington Spa.
Shows this month see All-Star at the Oakengates Theatre in Telford on the 13th, Victoria Hall in Hanley on the 14th, a 3pm Sunday show at the Fairfield Halls in Croydon on the 15th, Southampton Guildhall on the 20th, Northgate Arena in Chester the following day, The Woodville Halls in Gravesend on the 25th, Ipswich Corn Exchange on the 27th and a 3pm Saturday show at The Orchard in Dartford on the 28th. Full details of upcoming shows at www.bigtimewrestlinguk.com

In Scotland, PBW held their biggest show of the year when 'Maximum Impact' took place at the Magnum Centre in Irvine on October 17th.
Lionheart successfully defended his PBW Heavyweight title against Martin Stone. Also on the card Darkside beat Kevin Thorn, Bubblegum won the King of the Cruisers match High Energy won the tag titles when they beat Sean South and Logan Storm in a No DQ match, Liam Thomson beat Wolfgang, Team Highlander won a six-man tag match against Team Lightning and the team of Carmel and Sara beat Roxi and Nikki Storm. The last show of the year takes place at the Airdrie Town Hall on December 4th with El Ligero and Sean South confirmed to appear. More information at www.pbwwrestling.com

SWA Aftermath' was held at the Clydebank Town Hall on October 10th Conscience revealed that as a result of his retirement he's now a 50% co-owner of SWA and prevented Eric Canyon from stripping 'The Butcher' Scott Renwick of his Scottish Heavyweight title.
Later on the show Renwick beat Darkside by DQ after interference by Wolfgang who attacked the champion. Lined up for the next show is Renwick and Darkside v Lionheart and Wolfgang with a number one contenders spot on the line but if Wolfgang and Lionheart lose they won't get a title shot while Renwick holds the belt. Also on the card, Damien O'Connor beat Wolfgang to retain his Laird of the Ring title and STI defeated Black Samurai Jr

and Falcon to keep their tag belts.
On an SWA::NXT card held in Cumbernauld on November 7th, Scott Renwick beat Glen Dunbar to keep his Scottish title, Damian O'Connor retained his Laird of the Ring title beating Andy Anderson and STI beat Team Hawaii to keep the SWA tag titles.

Wrestling School Area 52 will be holding a weekend training seminar on December 12th and 13th at their training centre at Unit 1 on the Mossedge Industrial Estate in Linwood. The seminar will be hosted by NJPW star Prince Devitt (aka Fergal Devitt) and Johnny Moss and costs £70. Seen as a wrestling camp for wrestlers, the weekend seminars help to add to and perfect previously learned skills.
For more information email camps@scottishwrestling.co.uk or visit www.scottishwrestling.co.uk

Kid Kash will be in the UK next March holding a series of seminars at Macs Gym in Manchester for Star Power Training.
The seminars will be five days in length with a minimum of six hours training per day. The beginners class takes place from March 1st to 5th, Intermediate class runs from March 8th to 12th and the Masterclass is from the 15th to 19th. Nearby accommodation can be provided by Star Power Training for only £99 for 4 nights. The courses cost £299 with insurance also required, to book your place call 07845 581 487 or email bookings@starpowertraining.com with a deposit of £49 required. More info at www.starpowertraining.com

BWP held 'Cruel Intentions' at the Acton Community Centre in Wrexham on November 7th.
El Destello made his return as representative of GM Rudy Wynne and defeated The G-Man. Seb Winterz beat Lord Graham Thomas to keep his World Catchweight title but was attacked by all four members of 4 Word Association. G-Man and Jim King made the save and have formed The Justice Circle with Winterz. . More info at www.britanniawrestling.co.uk

LDN are at the Exmouth Pavilion on November 11th and on the 21st it's 'Legends Showdown' at the Wolsey Hall in Cheshunt with Johnny Saint taking on Mal Sanders, Lee Bronson faces Brian Maxine, it's Jon Ritchie v Johnny Kidd and Tony 'Banger' Walsh receives a lifetime achievement award.
LDN say this will be their last Legends show. The following day Johnny Saint runs a training seminar at their training school in Edmonton. This runs from 11am to 3pm and costs £15.. On the 26th LDN are at the Witham Public Hall on the 26th followed by a show at the Woking Leisure Centre on the 28th. A new LDN British Heavyweight Champion was crowned at the end of October when David DeVille beat Jon Ritchie .More information at www.ldnwrestling.com

Showcase Wrestling is due to launch next year and will feature some of "the best unseen talent from around Britain and the world" alongside established stars with Al Snow confirmed to appear at their first show in April 2010.
Three initial shows are planned, one each in Scotland, England and Wales and that'll be followed by a Showcase Supershow at the end of the year. Entitled 'The Future', each show will feature four unseen matches from wrestlers looking to break into the industry followed by three matches featuring established stars. There'll also be a training seminar held before each show. The first show is in Manchester on April 17th at a venue yet to be confirmed with El Ligero confirmed. In July there's a show in Cardiff and the Scottish show will take place in October. For more information email showcasewrestling@hotmail.co.uk

B.A.S.E. Wrestling make their debut on November 27th with a show at the Abbey Leisure Centre in Selby with El Ligero, Martin Kirby and Cabbie Klowaski among those confirmed.
More info at www.basewrestling.co.uk

Martin Kirby is a man on a mission in DPW and he's determined to win the Mansonweight title and then retire it.
Heaven knows what could happen on the rescheduled show that now takes place on December 5th at the Ackroyd Street Working Men's Club as he takes on Voodoo with the winner becoming number one challenger to the Mansonweight title with Mad Man Manson himself as the guest referee. Also confirmed for the show are Robbie X and The Myatt Legacy. More info at www.leedswrestling.co.uk and www.dpwrestling.co.uk

At the Stockport Masonic Guildhall on November 8th Alex Shane won the FutureShock title. Sam Bailey had beaten Dave Breaks to keep the belt but Shane issued an immediate challenge and won the belt.
Raynaldo beat Stixx to win the FutureShock Trophy. More information at www.futureshockwrestling.co.uk

Pauly C retained his IWF title when his defence against Lewis Beardsley at the New Deleval and Newsham Club in Blyth on October 10th ended in a Double DQ after both were attacked with a chair by Adam Christ.
Later on the show Assassin beat Christ to become number one contender to the IWF title. The Tag team titles changed hands when The Spartans (Weapon X

and Mike Redback) beat TY McFly and Jimmy Blade. There's also a new Junior Champion after Reece Jordan won a three-way dance against defending champion Brett Eagle and KATSU.
As a result of the injuries sustained when he was attacked Pauly C has had to vacate the IWF title. Seeing he's also the IWF Commissioner he quickly announced that the winner of the Tournament of Faith to be held at the Hedworth Hall in South Shields on November 13th will also become the new champion. On November 7th at the Dudley Social Club qualifying matches for the Tournament of Faith began with Tim LeStrange beating Billy Morrison. RD Wood beat Robbie Ryder to keep the Northeast title, Reece Jordan beat Brett Eagle to retain the Academy belt and The Spartans saw off a challenge for the tag belts from Instruments of Destruction.
On the 14th there's a show at the Blackfell Social Club in Washington. The company hold their yearly awards show at the Heaton Meadowfield Social Club on December 4th, voting closes on November 20th, more information at www.sensationaliwf.piczo.com

NGW held 'Collision Course' at the Eastmount Recreation Centre in Hull on October 17th. Alex Cyanide beat Dave Rayne to retain his NGW title after interference by Jack Toxic and Darren Mason.
Alex Shane was in the corner of the challenger but an earlier ruling meant he couldn't lay a hand on Toxic. After the match Toxic blew a green liquid into the face of Alex Shane who then challenged Toxic and Cyanide to a tag match on the next show ('Eternal Glory' at the same venue on November 27th) against himself and Dave Rayne. If Shane and Rayne lose then Shane will never appear on an NGW show again but if they win then Cyanide has to defend his belt against Shane. More info at www.hullwrestling.com

TWA present their first show at the Beighton Social Club in Sheffield on November 27th. Bret Valentine will be defending his NBW Openweight title against Chris Holmes, Tickets cost £5 and the show starts at 7.30pm.

UK Wrestling Experience hold 'Saturday Night Mayhem – Retribution' at the Lupset WMC in Wakefield on November 20th.
Scotty Phantom defends his UKW title against a mystery opponent, The Impact Express defend their tag belts against Dylan Roberts and Danny Steel. There'll also be a qualifying match for the UK Women's title tournament. Tickets cost £3 per person or £10 for a family ticket, for more info email ukw@live.co.uk

In AWW, Lucian L Jones beat Dave Williams at the West Bromwich Labour Club on October 4th.
Also on the card, Tenacious Lee beat El Dragon Lento, Steve Valentino beat MK Mikinan, Carnage got a win over Anarchy and The Hunter Brothers beat Arctic and X-Bones. Spud defends his AWW title against Lucian L Jones at the Aston University in Birmingham on November 20th. Also on the card MK Mikinan faces AWW Commissioner Desirable Danny D in a No DQ match and if Danny loses he has to leave the company. Also confirmed is Jonny Storm v Brandon Thomas and Marty Scurll v Dan Ryder. For more info go to alternativewrestling.tv

The next FCW show is at the Hadley Stadium in Birmingham on November 14th starting at 7.30pm.
Matches confirmed so far see Kevin O'Neil defend his FCW title against Jonny Storm in a No DQ match, Tag Champions Swift Justice face The Leaders of The New School, Brandon Thomas takes on FCW debutant Joel Redman and Marc Hogan is up against Rodd Hunter who's nine stone lighter than Hogan.
They return to the Baggeridge Welfare Centre, Dudley on November 29th Jonny Storm takes on Carl Mizzery and The Bouncer faces Marty Scurll More information at www.futurewrestling.co.uk

Live American Wrestling held their biggest show to date on October 17th at the Sixways Rugby Club in Worcester.
Johnny Saint beat Johnny Kidd by two falls to one, Danny 'Boy' Collins defeated 'Mr.#1 Jonny Rose, Rampage Brown beat Andy Simmonz, Mandrake beat LMR, Frankie Sloane got a win over Drew McDonald and Mad Dog Maxx beat Nik Dutt. Their next show is at the Bromsgrove Members Club on November 20th beginning at 7.30pm. For more information email liveamericanwrestling@yahoo.com

At the West Park Leisure Centre in Long Eaton on October 10th NRW Champion Paul Malen beat Sebastian Pedin in a non-title match but then lost another non-title bout this time against Bam Bam Barton who then walked off with the title belt.
Malen later announced that he'd be defending his title against Barton in February and it'll be a chain match. Kaleb 'Samurai' Hughes beat Dave Breaks, LJ Heron and Stixx to keep his NRW Regional title and the team of Breaks and Stixx won the NRW Tag Team title Rumble match. J-Techno beat Joseph Conners in a hardcore match in the main event.

The first ever SLAM Champion was crowned in Tamworth on October 29th when Jonny Storm beat Stixx in the final of the title tournament.

Frankie Sloane beat The Bouncer on a VWF show held at the River Rooms in Stourbridge on November 8th. Also on the card Jay Icon beat Saul Adams in a streetfight.

BAWA were at the Chipping Norton Leisure Centre on November 8th Jimmy Jacobs beat Chris Walker, DVD Champion Cash Calloway beat Gallowman in a Career vs. Career "I Quit" match and the team of Oldskool and Matt Fynish beat BAWA Champion Stu Oddyessy and The Saint.
Oldskool gets a steel cage title shot in December. More info at www.bawa-online.co.uk

The Rainbow Kid regained the ACW Light Heavyweight title when he beat Mr. E. and Blue Lightning at 'High Spirits 09' held at the Luton Regional Sports Centre on October 24th.
Shane Summers is still the heavyweight champion though after beating Samson. Also on the card Mia got a DQ win over Bacardi, Rich N Famous beat Snare, Dan Darkstar defeated Pretty Boy Dan Ford and the team of Sam Steel and DOA beat Mark Dyson and The Beast. The next show is on November 21st at the Dunstable Leisure Centre starting at 7.30pm. More info at www.acwrestling.co.uk

BECW held 'Autumn Conflict' at the Waltham Abbey Town Hall on October 10th and it proved to be a good night for Matt Jarrett beat El Sexico in the final of a tournament to crown a BECW Champion.
The semi-finals had seen Jarrett beat Anton Green and El Sexico defeat Jack Joker. Also on the card Brett Meadows beat Danny Blaze. The next show is 'Brawl For All' at the YMCA in Romford on November 14th starting at 3pm. Confirmed is Paul Phoenix taking on Mr. 666 in a Hardcore match. More info at www.becw.co.uk

In IPW:UK it was 'Make or Break' at the White Oaks Leisure Centre in Swanley on October 10th and Dave Taylor beat Martin Stone to earn himself a shot at the IPW:UK title currently held by Leroy Kincaide but that wasn't all he earned that night.
Taylor has sold his number one contendership to Ricky Hype who'd earlier attacked the champion as well as squashing Paul Robinson. Also on the card Mark Haskins beat Jonny Storm to retain his Cruiserweight title, The Leaders of the New School beat The Bangrah Knights to keep their tag belts, Jonny Storm beat Terry Frazier and Jimmy Havoc got a DQ win over Snare.
At the Arun Leisure Centre in Bognor Regis on November 7th, Jonny Storm beat Andy 'Boy' Simmonz and it proved to be a good night for Martin Stone as he beat Ricky Hype and then beat Hype and Gilligan Gordon in a handicap match. The Lion Kid beat Mark Sloan on his IPW:UK debut and T-Bone beat Terry Frazier.
The next show at the Tap 'N Tin in Chatham takes place on November 19th when it's 'Rasslin' R-A-S-S-L-I-N that's RASLIN" in honour of Glen Goza (http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wV-i-H-Vbew). Confirmed so far is BLK OUT taking on The Thrillers and Jimmy Havoc takes on Jon Ryan in a No DQ Hardcore match.. Tickets are on sale now from www.ipwuk.com/chatham/tickets.php
Jimmy Jacobs is the latest overseas star confirmed for 'Brawl at the Hall' at the Swallows Leisure Centre in Sittingbourne on November 22nd.
The Leaders of the New School defend their tag belts against BLK OUT (Sabian and Ruckus) The Brawl at the Hall match sees The Firm (Martin Stone and The Kartel) face The Invaders (Mikey Whiplash, Robbie Dynamite and Danny Garnell), James Mason takes on Joel Redman and IPW:UK British Champion Leroy Kincaide is due to be defending his title against Johnny Moss. The show starts at 6pm.
Ricky Hype gets his shot at the IPW:UK Unified title on December 12th when it's 'Christmas Cracker 2009' at the White Oak Leisure Centre in Swanley. Also confirmed for that show is a No DQ – All Weapons Legal match between Jimmy Havoc and Snare while Marty Scurll takes on RJ Singh and there's a Christmas Rumble with Joel Redman confirmed so far. The show starts at 6pm, more info at www.ipwuk.com and www.twitter.com/ipwuk

The next NCW:UK show is on November 28th at the Mid Suffolk Leisure Centre in Stowmarket. The show features a Super Pro 2009 tournament.
The first round matches see Jon Ryan take on Marc Star, Kerry Cabrero faces Brad Beck, it's Cougar Kid v Dark Angel and after the suspension of the Anihilator, The Dominator receives a bye through to the semi-finals. Also on the card Team Kentera face Hard Love and whichever team loses has to disband and Skarlett takes on Erin Angel. The show starts at 7.30pm. More information at www.myspace.com/ncwrestlinguk or www.ncwrestling-uk.com

'Rock N Wrestling' takes place at the Connaught School in Aldershot on December 6th.
Marcus Brash defends his PLEX Wrestling title against Mal Sanders, The British Bad Boyz put their tag belts on the line against Team Plex (Gino Perri and Marcus Phayer) Bingo Ballance faces Jay Knox, it's James Mason v Robbie Sincaide and Kieran McKenzie is up against Ciaran Morrison. Also due to appear are Mat Campbell, Beer Fuelled Violence, Darrell Allen, Rich N Famous, Anton Green and Tommy Stevens.

In Premier Promotions, at the Bournemouth Pavilion on October 11th Kris Kay beat Marcus Brash by two

falls to one, Eamon O'Neill knocked out Robbie Williams, the team of Mark Sloan and Mark Haskins defeated Jonny Storm and Wade Fitzgerald 2-1 and it was a good day for Robbie Brookside as he beat Danny Flynn 2-1 and then won the Battle Royal.

At the Worthing Assembly Halls on October 26th, Jonny Storm beat Wade Fitzgerald by two falls to one to retain his PWF Lightweight title, Jon Ryan knocked out Marty Scurll, Christian Eckstein beat Eamon O'Neil 2-1 and Zack Sabre Jr defeated Robbie Williams by the same score. At the Corn Exchange in Bedford on October 29th, Christian Eckstein beat Robbie Brookside by two falls to one to retain his European Inter-Continental title. For more info call the Premier Wrestling Line on 09068 800 669.

PTW hold 'First Time, Last Time, Only Time' at the Challney School for Girls in Luton on November 28th starting at 7.30pm.

The main event sees Johnny Kidd take on James Mason. PTW Promoter Petey Staniforth finally meets Dan Edge in the ring and there are three title matches including Marcus Phayer taking on G 'The Lap Dancing Superstar' for the PTW British Heavyweight title. PTW make their debut in Derby next February followed by a first-time show in Birmingham in April. More information at www.powertripwrestling.co.uk

RAW make their return with 'Three Men Walked Into a Pub...Everyone Else Came Here' at the White Road Community Centre in Chatham on November 14th.

The main event is a best of three falls match between John Everyman and Ant E. Christ and also confirmed is Jordan E. v Sam Shocker in an intergender match, Captain Jack Morgan v Jakob the Butcher, Anton Green v Tad Trussell and Vainity Express v Prevalence and Jay Wyles. More info at www.riotactwrestling.co.uk

Rockstar Spud made a successful first defence of his XWA British Heavyweight title when he beat Sam Slam and Johnny Phere in a triple threat match at 'Battle of Britain' held at The Delphi Club in Sudbury, Suffolk.

Phere had earlier beaten Robbie Sincaide, also on the card Marty Scurll beat Kaleb 'The Samurai' Hughes, Stixx defeated Baz Attitude and Angus McManus made Axl Rage submit. The next show in Sudbury is on February 27th with Sam Slam, Jonny Storm, Pitbull Bulk, Marty Scurll and Baz Attitude so far confirmed. More information at www.xwawrestling.com

The Zebra Kid and Faith Lehaine defeated HEW Champion Brett Meadows and HEW Women's Champion Britani Knight at 'Helloween' held on October 24th.

Also on the card Steve Quintain went to a Double DQ with Phil Bedwell, Alex Young beat Victor Dale and Keifer Knowles, Aron Frost pinned T-Bone and Brad Slayer beat Danny Blaze.

The next show is at Towerlands in Braintree on November 13th with Brett Meadows defending his HEW title against former WWE star Chuck Palumbo and Britani Knight defending her title against Faith Lehaine and Sweet Saraya. Judas takes on Red Devil from Italy, Martin Stone is up against Scott Fusion, London Inc. face The Supernaturals (Gabriel Antonik and T-Jay from Norway), Alex Young is up against Exodus and Ricky Knight takes on Danny Blaze. The show is in aid of Children in Need.

On November 15th at the Greenstead Community Centre in Colchester Chuck Palumbo takes on an opponent yet to be named, Alex Young faces Phil Bedwell, Judas is up against Danny Blaze and Women's Champion Britani Knight faces Amazon. The show starts at 2.45pm.

Their final show of the year is on December 19th in Takeley with Sam Knee taking on Sweet Saraya in a No DQ, Loser Leaves HEW match with Commissioner Cox as referee and The Devil's Playboys banned from ringside. More info at www.hewwrestling.com.

RDW hold their fifth anniversary show '5 Years Later' at the Empress Ballrooms in Mexborough on November 21st.

The Zebra Kid defends his RDW European title against El Ligero, Prince Mohmed Ameen puts his British Heavyweight title on the line against former champion Sam Slam, there's a RDW British Tag Team Championship Gauntlet as champions Nathan Cruz and Ewan Kennedy face the challenge of Project Ego, Pryde, The British Bladerunners and Teeny and Tiny. The Women's title will be on the line as champion Sweet Saraya teams up with Britani Knight to face Babylove (Stacey Baybie/Chelsey Love) in an elimination tag team match. If Saraya is eliminated then whoever eliminates her becomes the interim champion and whoever gets the final pin will become the new champ. If Saraya and Britani win the match without either being eliminated then they'll face each other for the title on the next show. Also confirmed for the show is Mick Romeo v Lance Lenahan in a Traditional British Rules match and also due to appear are Ricky Knight, Zak Zodiac, Havok and more to be confirmed.

There's a free afternoon event for all fans who have tickets for the evening show. This features some bonus matches as Bubblegum defends his Lincolnshire Regional title against Nathan Cruz, Babylove (Stacey Baybie and Chelsey Love) take on Defenders of the Catch(Gilligan Gordon/Samuel Collins)in an inter-gender tag match, it's Super Robbie X v Havok and there's a 20 man over the top rope Rumble match featuring 'The Gambler' Rick Hardrock, Big Love and

Johnny Moss. There's also a meet and greet with wrestlers appearing on the evening show and the chance to determine the fate of the RDW European title. Who are the best tag team in the UK? Well RDW hope to find the answer to that question with a tag team tournament due to start next February . The plan is for a minimum of 16 teams to take part with the tournament being divided up into a series of four-team single elimination one-night tournaments. Mixed tag teams and female tag teams are being considered and after an appeal on the UKFF they so far have over 40 teams to consider for the final line-up. More info about future shows at www.realdealpromotions.co.uk

***Best of British Wrestling** are holding a one-day training session at the Brotherhood Hall in Clacton-on-Sea on November 21st.*
It starts at noon and costs £15, for more information go to www.bestofbritishwrestliing.com

***WAW** held a show in conjunction with Live wrestling Entertainment at the Diss Corn Hall on October 23rd October.*
Zak Zodiac beat Ricky Knight, Victor Dale got a win over Aron Frost, Phil Powers got a count out victory over The Zebra Kid after interference by Sam Knee, Britani Knight beat Amy-Lee Krammer and the team of Zodiac, Frost and The Zebra Kid beat Ricky Knight, Dale and Powers. No titles changed hands at October Outrage XI held at The Talk in Norwich on October 24th. Sam Slam did lose to Doug Williams by DQ but retained his WAW British Heavyweight title. The Zebra Kid beat Martin Stone by two falls to one to keep his WAW World Heavyweight title, Britani Knight is still the WAW British Ladies champion after beating Sweet Saraya 2-1 and Zak Zodiak beat Phil Powers by the same score to keep hold of his Light Heavyweight title. Also on a packed card Steve Quintain made Brett Meadows submit, London Inc. went to a Double DQ with Aron Frost and Victor Dale and Alex Young and JoFX beat Scott Fusion and T-Bone
Steve Grey will be holding a seminar on November 8th from 12-4om as part of the next WAW training weekend. Places are limited and can be booked on 07979 302203. Other trainers for the weekend include Ricky Knight, Sweet Saraya and The Zebra Kid
WAW have announced they'll be at the Pontefract Town Hall on November 14th. More info at www.wawuk.net

***4FW** held a Halloween Spectacular at the Grange Centre in Swindon on October 31st. Jack Dynamo beat Mad Dog Maxx to retain his 4FW title and his new number one challenger is Eddie Reyes after he won the Rumble. Reyes had earlier been beaten in a singles match by Doug Williams.*

At the Gloucester G1 Centre on October 24th, Christian Eckstein (interviewed in our last edition) retained his European Heavyweight title with a two falls to one victory over Danny 'Boy' Collins.
Also on the card, Dave Taylor beat Andy 'Boy' Simmonz, the team of Drew McDonald and Kris Kay beat Robbie Brookside and Frankie Sloane, Joel Redman beat Steve Morocco and the match between Matt Jarrett and Johnny Kidd ended in a twenty minute time-limit draw. The winner of that match was due to face Johnny Saint on the next show in January so it went down to a toss of a coin and Jarrett was victorious.

DWA held 'New Era' in Teignmouth on October 25th with a four-man tournament for the DWA Trophy.
The semi-finals saw wins for Joel Redman over Dan Head after interference by Iestyn Res and Nick Riley got a shock win over Rockstar Spud. The final saw victory for Redman over Riley after Redman faked injury and Rees interfered. Also on the card Andy 'Boy' Simmonz beat Dan Walsh, Darren Saviour and Aaron Watts beat Marcus Bain and Gilligan Gordon.
On November 20th there's a show at the America Hall in Pinhoe, Exeter with Dan and Mark Walsh taking on Sam Andrews and Chris Andrews and Joel Redman defends the DWA Trophy against Nick Riley in a ladder match. Gilligan Gordon faces Aaron Watts and it's Marcus Bain v PJ Jones.

In CSF All Nations Light Heavyweight Champion Canno Tangoe beat Lee Class in a ladder match held in Weston-Super-Mare on October 17th. As a result of the loss Class can no longer wrestle in the town.
'Total Elimination XI' takes place at the Yate Leisure Centre on November 14th, Dave Mercy takes on Jeckle and Canno Tangoe faces Matt Vaughn More info at www.csfwrestling.co.uk

To Pro-Ev Wrestling and on October 3rd at Picturedrome in Gloucester, Team UK beat Team Mexico to win the tag titles and Amber Vixen beat Becky James to become the Women's champion.
More info at www.proevwrestling.com.

Celtic Wrestling hold their biggest show of the year when 'Big Bang 5' takes place at the Canton Community Hall in Cardiff on November 27th.
The main event sees Thomas Bassey defend his Celtic Wrestling Heavyweight title against Chris Recall in a best of three falls match. If Bassey loses his title he'll leave the company for good. More information at www.celticwrestling.co.uk

The next Pro Power Wrestling show is at the GGCA in Gilfrach Goch on November 20th. Matches confirmed

so far include Tagori take on Danny Driscoll, Big Dog faces 'The Poet' Edmund Ferris, James Mason is up against Kade Callous and it's Flyin' Mike Bird v Rocco Berretta.
Tickets are £8 for adults, £6 for children with a family ticket costing £25 and can be booked on 01443 675004

Pure British Wrestling have announced a show at the Penyrheol Community Centre in Caerphilly, Wales on January 9th 2010.
Confirmed so far is El Psycho v Sadistic Psycho, Lightning Kid v Danny Blue and El Ligero, Scouse and Lyndon Ham v Damian Dunne and Pete Dunne and also due to appear are Thomas Bassey, T-Bone and Kade Callous. More information at http://z6.invisionfree.com/PBW or email pbwrestling@live.co.uk
Please note this is a separate company from PBW in Scotland.

Mandrake is still the IwW International Heavyweight Champion after a series of successful defences against The Supermodel and Jason Rotanda in early October.
LA Warren kept his Zero Gravity title after a win against Red Vinny in a Loser leaves IwW match. Vinny who's a former RQW Cruiserweight champion has retired from the ring after a long battle against injuries. He's due to have surgery on his shoulder and neck soon and has been advised by his doctor not to wrestle again. The Zero Gravity title changed hands in Portlaois on October 25th when Scottish wrestler Jason Rotanda beat LA Warren to become the first non-Irish wrestler to win the belt. He then teamed up with Working Class John to beat Warren and Captain Rooney in a match where his newly won title was on the line. Also on the card Mandrake beat The Supermodel by two falls to one to retain his International Heavyweight title.
IwW hold a show at the in Peterlee on November 14th with T-Bone, Captain Rooney and The Supermodel confirmed so far. Tickets can be booked on 0101 5860 606.

At the Ballerup Hall in East Kilbride on October 24th, Kid Fite retained his BCW Openweight title beating BT Gunn, Wolfgang and Red Lightning kept their tag belts beating STI and Darkside saw off a challenge from Doug Williams for the BCW Heavyweight title.
A feud erupted between The Highlander and Johnny Moss after Moss (who'd earlier lost to Lionheart) attacked Highlander during his match with Naom Dar. BCW hold 'No Blood, No Sympathy VII' at the Kilmarnock Grand Hall on December 5th with Paul London making his BCW debut taking on 'Bad Boy' Liam Thompson, Wolfgang and Red Lightning defend their BCW Tag Team titles against The Models (Joey Hayes/Danny Hope), BT Gunn faces Martin Stone and it's Andy Wild v Lightning Kid plus a tables match between The Highlander and Johnny Moss.

The Wrestlezone Heavyweight title changed hands on October 16th when Lionheart beat defending champion Scotty Swift at the Northern Hotel in Aberdeen.

AMERICAN INVASION

However much wrestling companies in the UK try to increase their business they know that putting on a show that features some former WWE stars will always draw in the crowds. That's been the case for Varsity Pro Wrestling (VPW) as stars such as Billy Gunn and D'Lo Brown boosted interest in the company. 2009 has seen the arrival of Hardcore Holly to initially feud with The UK Kid before turning heel in Portsmouth and attacking fan favourite Chris Andrews rather than protecting him from a savage attack by The UK Kid in a cage match.
So to October and another former WWE star is in town and one that only needs to say two words to get the fans going loopy. Road Dogg Jesse James is the latest VPW recruit and boy did the fans love him. The queue for fans to get their photo taken with him during the interval and for the meet and greet after the show was

© Rob Hazell

the largest I've seen at a show for a long time. VPW don't put that many shows on a year (they're not back in Portsmouth until next February) and that's a shame because the production levels are pretty high. The sound system was impressive and a large screen was used to show videos (including a recap of what happened in that cage match between The UK Kid and Chris Andrews for fans who hadn't been at the last show).

© Rob Hazell

The opening match saw Jake McCluskey who certainly got the girls screaming go down in defeat to Rob Holte. A decent opener and surprisingly the two US imports were used in the next two bouts. First up was the now hated Hardcore Holly who came to the ring alongside the even more hated UK Kid. His opponent in a fairly short match was the Zulu Warrior. For those who haven't seen him he's kind of like Kamala but without the big belly and he can talk. A bit strange actually because I don't know many Zulu Warriors who can get the crowd going with a chant of 'Who are you?'. A decent match but it could have been longer.

Next up was Road Dogg Jesse James against The UK Kid. Like I've already written the fans went crazy as the DX music was played. A pretty decent physical and verbal battle ensued but perhaps inevitably Holly made his return to prevent a Road Dogg victory and set up a win for the UK Kid. The match ended with Road Dogg looking after an injured right knee, something he continued to pay attention during the lengthy photo session with the fans.

Three wins in a row for the bad guys before the interval so I guess we were due a win for the faces in the second half and that's exactly what we got. Andy 'Boy' Simmonz (who I really prefer as a heel to be honest) gave the fans something to cheer about as he beat T-Bone and then it was time for the main event. Now considering we'd already seen both the US imports what could that be? It turned out to be Chris Andrews looking for revenge on Hardcore Holly who made his second appearance of the night. A good main event followed but again a bit of inevitability crept in towards the end. The arrival of the UK Kid to help Holly was always going to happen and of course that had to be followed by Road Dogg to make the save. At least this time around the villains got their comeuppance in the end and a tag match with Andrews and Road Dogg taking on Holly and The UK Kid was set up for February. The fans will love that for sure.

All in all this was a pretty enjoyable evening. Some pretty solid matches, good fan reaction throughout but just a touch too predictable. That's a problem that affects pro wrestling around the world though. For more info about VPW go to **www.varsityprowrestling.com**

Veteran British wrestler, trainer and promoter Orig Williams has passed away at the age of 78. Williams, who also wrestled under the name of 'El Bandito' promoted shows in the UK for over 30 years and was still putting on shows in Wales this summer. Klondyke Kate who regularly wrestled for him said: "He made one of the biggest contributions to British wrestling. I've never heard anyone talk about him without anything other than the utmost respect." We'll have a full tribute to Orig Williams in our next edition.

WOMEN'S WRESTLING NEWS

| By STEVE ASHFIELD (News Editor) |

***SHIMMER** held their fourth anniversary celebration at the Berwyn Eagles Club on November 8th with Volumes 27 and 28 of the SHIMMER DVD series being taped. Highlights from Volume 27 saw The International Homewrecking Crew (Rain/Jetta) beat Rachel Summerlyn and Daffney with the TNA star walking out on her partner during the match, Wesna Busic and Melanie Cruise beat former tag champions Ashley Lane and Nevaeh, Cheerleader Melissa defeated Nicole Matthews, LuFisto and Amazing Kong went to a double count out in a number one contenders match, Ayako Hamada beat Mercedes Martinez and MsChif beat Nikki Roxx to retain the SHIMMER title.*

Volume 28 saw MsChif retain her belt in a three-way match against Kong and LuFisto, Nikki Roxx beat Wesna Busic, Rachel Summerlyn got a DQ win over Daffney and Nicole Matthews beat Allison Danger and Sara Del Rey beat Ayako Hamada.

Volume 25 has just been released and is available at www.rohwrestling.com. Matches include MsChif v Wesna, Ashley Lane and Nevaeh v Amazing Kong and Sara Del Rey, The Canadian Ninjas v Allison Danger and Daizee Haze, LuFisto v Amber O'Neal, Cheerleader Melissa v Jessie McKay and Nikki Roxx v Melanie Cruise. More info at www.shimmerwrestling.com

Ayako Hamada

***Allison Danger** had important business outside the ring at the tapings as she looked for donations for her Dental project. A recent study showed that tooth decay is the world's most common non-communicable disease so Danger, who comes from a dental background has started a campaign to help the underprivileged find and receive adequate dental care. Danger asked fans to donate new toothbrushes and unopened packages of toothpaste, floss etc. that will then be given to New Moms Inc in Chicago. It proved a big success with over 100 adult and children's toothbrushes donated and 41 large tubes of toothpaste. Allison hopes to carry on doing this at shows in the future.*

The next JAPW Women's Division card is on November 14th at the Rahway Rec Center and at 'Girl Power' Sara Del Rey is due to defend her JAPW Women's title against the winner of a match between Cheerleader Melissa and Nikki Roxx that takes place earlier on the card.
Also confirmed is Allison Danger v Daizee Haze and Ariel v Hailey Hatred. More info at www.japw.net

Awesome Kong recently met up with new TNA recuit Hulk Hogan during a book signing on October 27th, The pair met up as Hogan was signing copies of his new book 'My Life Outside the Ring' in Lake Grove on Tuesday October 27th. When Hogan saw Kong he pointed at her and proclaimed "I'm a big fan of yours." Talking about Hogan signing for TNA, Kong said "I'm very excited to have Hulk join me at TNA. This is a great day for me, and a great day for TNA."
The Smackdown Diva's came out on top at 'Bragging Rights' held on October 25th. The team of WWE Women's Champion Michelle McCool, Beth Phoenix and Natalya beat WWE Diva's Champion Melina, Gail Kim and Kelly Kelly when Phoenix pinned Melina.

The WSU Spirit title changed hands twice on October 10th. Latasha beat Jana in an Empty Arena match to win the belt but then lost it on an ACE card with Brittney Savage becoming the new champion in a match that also included Becky Bayless.
WSU World Champion Mercedes Martinez was held to a 15-minute time-limit draw by former champion Angel Orsini on a NWS card held in North Brunswick on October 24th. The title wasn't on the line as Orsini can't challenge for the belt while Martinez is champion. The tag titles changed hands on November 7th when the team of Orsini and Martinez beat defending champions Jessicka Havok and Hailey Hatred. The win means Martinez is the first woman ever to hold the World singles and tag titles simultaneously. Martinez is scheduled to defend her title against Angelina Love in NWS on November 14th with Alicia challenging Savage for the Spirit title on the same show at St James Church in Basking Ridge, New Jersey.
The next WSU show takes place on December 12th and is a joint show with NWS at the American Legion Hall with Martinez possibly defending her title against number one challenger Rain (formerly seen in TNA as Payton Banks) and Angel Orsini taking on Jazz. The company have just released two new DVDs filmed at their October 3rd event. Both 'Excellence' and 'Raining Misery' are available at www.wsuwrestling.com and www.DOIVideo.com WSU will also be part of the Dragon Gate USA 'Independent Tour De Force' series with a Martinez v Nikki Roxx title match confirmed for a later date.

November 14th sees DWA start their Women's title tournament in Wittorf/Visselhoevede. UK stars Bacardi and Carmel face Wesna and LuFisto and the winning team then face each other in singles action.

Ariel has been confirmed for the next NCW Femmes Fatales show to be held on February 6th 2010. Also due to appear are LuFisto, Kalamity, Misty Haven, Mary Lee Rose, Anna Minoushka, Ady Starr, Karen Brooks, Kacey Diamond, Roxie Cotton, Kylie Pierce and Anastasia Ivy.
More info at www.ncwfemmesfatales.com

FIGHTINGFEMALES.co.uk

Interviews in this edition are Lexie Fyfe, Nevaeh, Skarlett, LuFisto and a special feature on comic strip 'Rival Angels.'

GIVING WOMEN'S WRESTLING THE COVERAGE IT DESERVES

Be Sure Your Skits Will Find You Out

| By THE CYNIC - hearditallbefore@hotmail.com |

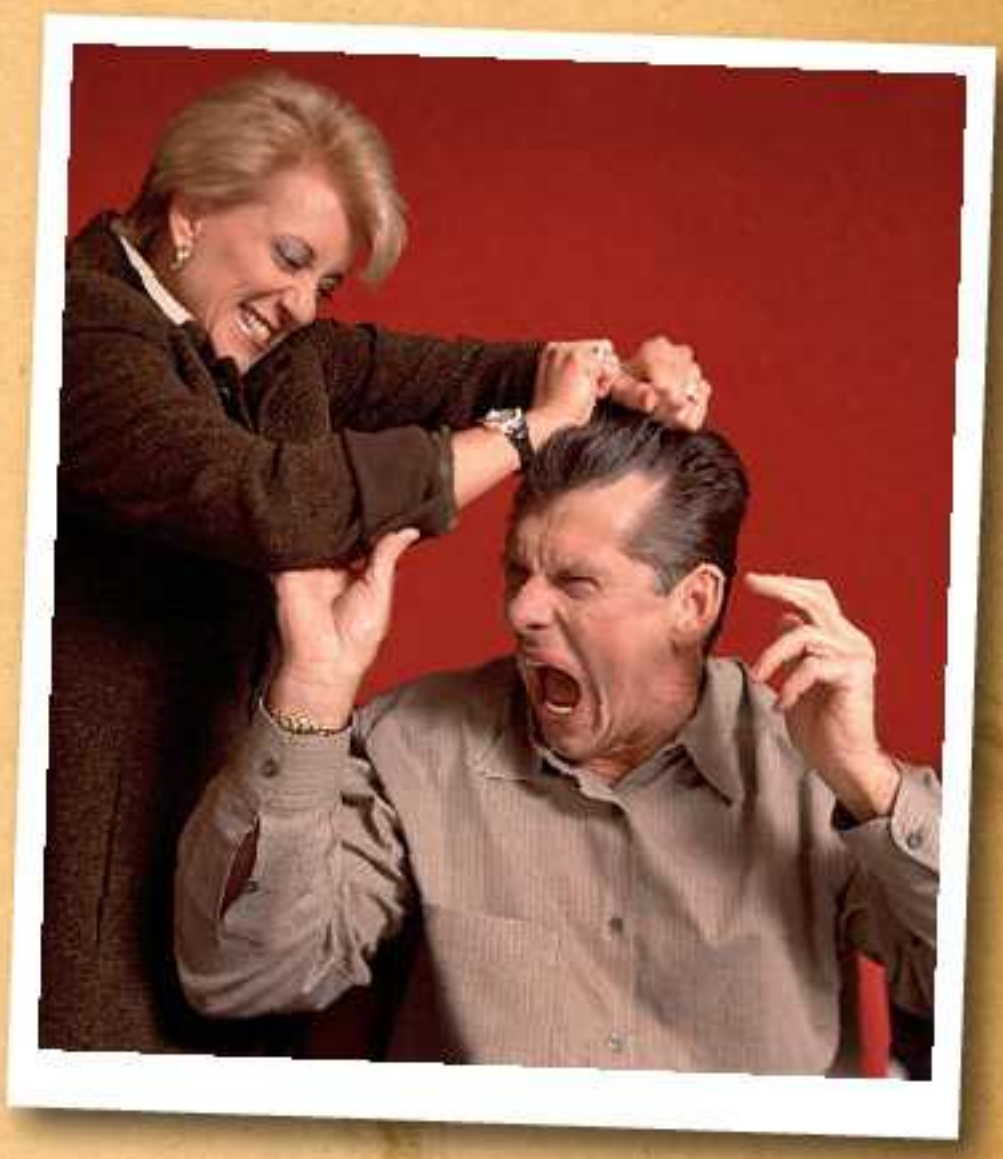
Yes, he was pursuasive. Yes, he did say it was just for him. Yes, you did have second thoughts. But you did it. You posed in a leopardskin thong and kitten heels and nothing else. And now you're thinking of entering the priesthood, that picture is on www.hotyoungpotentialpriests.com (come on, you know you have it bookmarked).

The frailties of youth. Oh, how they come back to haunt you. Like that crispy copy of "Razzle" your mum found last week. You're thirty, for God's sake! Get a flat! Yes, the past can come back to haunt you. Every pose. Every shutter click. Every live internet feed. It's lurking in the shadows waiting to derail your future hopes and dreams. Of course, one little slip does not a morally questionable human make.

But what about if you've made morally questionable judgements for years? And made lots of money out of it? If you're a repeat offender, pushing at the barriers of taste for a bit of pretty green? Should we feel sorry for you when your future plans are thwarted? Nope. You had time to recant but carried on bathing in the trough.

Linda McMahon wants to be a senator. She has the cash. She has the drive. She has the Republican convictions (although she's also had Democratic ones in the past) She also has a past. And in the world of American politics, that is almost as bad as beginning your campaign with the words "I've always thought God was overrated." Her nomination opponents are raking up every dodgy angle, every stereotype, every sexually explicit moment from WWE programming and using it to ruin her campaign.

Fair game. She's fair game. She's made money out of wrestling, sure. In the political world, that's bad enough. Wrestling promoters are not allowed to sit at the top table. This has always



rankled with Vincent Kennedy McM; he's a billionaire, Godammit! He's craved that legitimacy, the stroke from the business world. This is why he diversified into a disastrous American football league, this is why the WWE is diverting it's attention to films and video games - it's not just about extra wealth streams, movies and games are PROPER businesses. Rasslin' is still seen as a bit grubby, a bit old fashioned, the promoters little better than superannuated carney folk.

And the McMahon's have a right to be peeved. They are a legitimate brand of entertainment, as their promos keep telling us. Not even sports entertainment anymore, theirs is the type of business that people want to shake hands with. He's made a lot of money for himself and others and whatever you think of rampant capitalism

(and I think just slightly more of it than the ebola virus), he's kept his business burgeoning for decades. He won the wrestling war and should be noted because of it, but the Fortune companies turn their backs on him.

But this is not why Linda can't achieve legitimacy in the political arena. Money overcomes the chattering classes. No, she's having trouble because:

She is involved in WWE and WWE has been involved in racism, sexism and homophobia.

Now, she's no Nick Griffin, she's not signed up to a disgusting personal or political belief. In private she's probably as open and enlightened individual. But the product she's associated with isn't.

The product she's associated with plays necrophilia for laughs. The product she made money from laughs at people of restricted growth. The product that afforded her a comfortable lifestyle dresses Irishmen in green and shoves a shillelagh in their hands whilst playing cod "chinky chong" music for Chinese and Japanese wrestlers alike.

Think that's not bad? Then you're probably a Tory grandee or a member of UKIP. Well, also think of the supposedly gay wrestlers who like to wear rhinestones and tiaras and smack the arses of their opponents (because every gay man is like Liberace, or wants to jump everything that moves), women made to strip to excite the power gland of an almost-OAP, an elderly women giving birth to a hand and a father's battle with cancer (real or not) played for laughs.

I could go on all night (and indeed, my women ask me to). Listing the questionable, uninformed and downright prejudiced skits that Linda and Vince had slapped onto the table in all it's red, glistening glory is a long job (something else my women compliment me on).

That's why Linda is having trouble. She's seen to be racist, sexist and homophobic. Doesn't matter if that's just at work. That's where she made her money. She is complicit in the appalling views of the writers and management.

The American public will never accept a racist politician in high office; not now that Obama is the acceptable face of black capitalism, anyway.

The right wing media might suggest that Obama's middle name may make him a terrorist and his mixed-race looks may place him as a ghetto troublemaker, but they will cloak these views in skewed figures and half-baked interviews - it's a long way from Roddy Piper painting himself half black against Bad News Brown.

You reap what you sow, Linda. Not to come over all Old Testament on your prada-covered ass, but you have been found out. Once a racist, always a racist, it is often said and although I'm sure you aren't personally, your product is. Bad enough if you're a CEO sitting thousands of miles above the nuts, bolts and conveyor belts, but the McMahons cannot spurn the lure of the spotlight; they want a bit of fame, the cheapest, quickest-fading type. And so, they fret their hour upon the stage and become inexorably bound to every nasty comment, every mud wrestling match, every angle about Vince cheating on his wife.

Hubris = pride before a fall (my God, you'll learn more reading this than you will on your HNC). Linda is suffering the smack of that particular whip right now. I have been saying that the WWE's views are nasty, sullied and bullying for years; now it's come back to haunt them. Excuse me while I swirl this balloon of brandy and puff on a montecristo.

The Cynic

DEFINITION OF A BAD GUY

By CHARLIE RENEKE - reneke2@msn.com

It's happened to everyone who watches wrestling. You'll be enjoying a show on the television when someone who is not a fan shows up and asks the two universal questions. The first one is always "don't you know this stuff is fake?" It never fails. Every wrestling fan has stories related to the first universal question, usually involving a funny quip that was used to answer it. My personal favorite response is "Next thing you're going to tell me is that Robocop is fake too." It usually gets a laugh, because the concept of a robotic police officer is funny and quite far-fetched. Try it sometime.

There's a second universal question, but it gets a lot less play. Some people don't even realise that it's a universal question. Maybe it's because it's quickly forgotten about as soon as it's answered. And yet every fan I've talked to about the subject was indeed asked the question many times over the course of their life. Obviously! It wouldn't be a universal question otherwise.

The arrogant non-fan, still feeling triumphant over getting the "Fake" question in, will take a seat, looking for more opportunities to mock you and the show you're watching. A match gets underway, the combatants lock-up, and then it's time for the second universal question. "Which one is the BAD guy?" with smug and condescending emphasis on the word "bad". And the question is always about the bad guy. I've yet to hear from anyone that the question was about the good guy.

Wrestling, like most forms of entertainment, is about heroes and villains. It's one of the two universal truths that everyone, fan or not, knows about the industry. (1) It's fake. (2) There's good guys and bad guys. That's why I find it so disheartening that few wrestlers behave as such. In the modern era, the art of drawing heat for matches has been lost. What happened?

Wrestlers and promoters in the modern era seem to believe that it's okay to base a worker's fan allegiance completely around their gimmick. In the WWE, Jillian Hall has the gimmick of a bad singer, and thus that's good enough for her to be a heel. Her matches draw no heat and nobody talks about them after the show is over, but having the singer gimmick isn't the problem. She doesn't actually behave like a heel. The gimmick is annoying, but annoying doesn't translate to heat. Villainy does. And yet nobody actually forces their wrestlers to behave like their assigned role. The best heat is always earned in the ring.

Not too long ago, it was fairly easy to draw heat in a match. It wasn't done through big gestures and massive amounts of interference, but subtle things. Grabbing ropes for leverage or a handful of tights. A thumb to the eye perhaps, or maybe even a closed fist. Ole & Arn Anderson are prime examples. They were never about the big moves. It was a series of very small things by today's standards that made the fans livid. But it wasn't just what they did in the ring, but why they did it. They usually were the bigger men in their matches and were obviously talented wrestlers, so their use of small amounts of cheating made the fans angry because it seemed like they just did it to be bullies. Yes, their time has long past. But would their style still work today? We can't know because nobody tries it.

The face/heel dynamic has other problems, one of which is that you can't distinguish your average babyface from your average heel on style alone. Triple H wrestles exactly the same way as a babyface as he does a heel. The excuse for that is the fans dictated his turn, but I find that to be a lazy

cop-out. He has no sense of vulnerability about him, so how does anyone expect him to heat up a heel? The result is you get the fans snoring through the main event of Wrestlemania, not because the work they're doing is bad but because everyone considers the outcome to be a foregone conclusion.

These problems are not exclusive to the WWE. In TNA and Ring of Honor, matches are structured so that both wrestlers split the amount of offense right down the middle. With time constraints, this means that your average heel can only execute two moves before the babyface gets to make his or her comeback. The fans have no reason to jeer the heels, because they know the babyface is only seconds away from fighting back, as opposed to many minutes away from it. The attitude seems to be that everyone wants to be the star of any given match, not realising that fan involvement means everyone benefits. If the fans have no reason to think the babyface is in danger, they don't react. What good is it being the star of a match that the fans sit silently through? Heels try to pop the crowd with flashy high-risk stuff as well. The result is you get the fans conditioned where they pop only for big moves but don't react to anything else. Such stuff should be reserved for babyfaces. If a worker's style is centered around high-risk stuff, they should never be booked as a heel. It's counter-productive.

The 90s brought forth the idea that you can be a 'cool heel' and still be an effective draw, especially the Outsiders in WCW. Scott Hall and Kevin Nash were the epitome of cool and the fans bought their merchandise. Unfortunately, people seem to have forgotten that the main angles at the time centered around Hulk Hogan, who was anything BUT cool. He was as basic a wrestling heel as you could have. A weasel, a coward, a blowhard, a braggart, and a cheater. WCW's success wasn't on the shoulders of Outsiders, but on the fans wanting to see Hulk Hogan get his ass kicked. When the storylines later centered around cool heel Kevin Nash, the company fell apart and was folded within two years.

Despite Vince McMahon's proclamation that the Attitude Era would be all about "shades of gray", the late 90s WWE still used the basic babyface/heel dynamic and it was easy to distinguish between the babyfaces and the heels, and why they were like that to begin with. The one obvious exception is likely the reason so many wrestlers today are failures in the heat department: The Rock. The New Age Outlaws were turned by the fans as well, but they adjusted their styles to fit it. Jesse James became a modern version of Ricky Morton and played the babyface-in-peril during his tag matches, giving them tremendous success. The Rock never changed anything up, and while he enjoyed a very successful career nobody has successfully been able to recreate what he achieved in the ring. It was lightning in a bottle.

Fans can be conditioned over long periods of time to accept anything in wrestling. As fans, we've come to know wrestling's little quirks and foibles and appreciate them. The idea that we can't go back to the way things were before, where a clinched fist or a chokehold was enough to draw heat, is absurd. If bookers would put a ban on babyfaces using heelish moves, within a couple years the fans would be reconditioned and actually react when heels performed them. Wrestling has to get back to the point where the workers get the most attention in the ring. You draw fans to the shows on the microphone, but you keep them coming back by what's done during the matches.

OVERCOMING THE ODDS

| By PHIL AUSTIN - PhilUK1@aol.com |

Shannon Rose is a man who has done it all. He may not be the most recognisable name in professional wrestling but, whether its ring announcing, refereeing, winning IPW battle royales or hosting his own star-studded television shows, Shannon Rose has worked with some of the biggest names in the industry.

From Ric Flair to the Rock, Shannon Rose has worked with them all. But it could have all been so different. The Wrestling Press sat down with Shannon to look at how he overcome a crippling disease in order to achieve his goals and live his dreams.

> **Wrestling Press: Tell us a bit about your background in the wrestling business. How did you get into ring announcing, interviewing etc. What roles have you had within the business, and how did you get each of these roles?**

I started in pro wrestling at the age of 12. I had a serious illness called Ehlers Danlos that is a neuromuscular condition.

I was very ill at that time in my life and the Make-A-Wish foundation granted me a wish to meet Hulk Hogan. From there Dusty Rhodes and Gordon Solie saw something special in me and gave me a chance to write for Florida Championship Wrestling.

I remember interviewing such stars as Bret Sawyer, Nasty Boys, DDP, Kevin Sullivan and others. It was quite a thrill being someone so young and hanging out with the stars of today and tomorrow.

I then started attending small "outlaw" shows as they were known at the time.

The main event of one show was Mike Awesome vs. Luis Astea. I was given the chance to ring the bell a few shows before that. The ring announcer did not show up and at age 14 I was asked to fill that role. I was wide-eyed thinking to myself "I have never done this before, what do I do?"

With both arms in a sling I stepped into the squared circle and the rest is history.

A young Shannon with Ric Flair

> **Wrestling Press: What was the story behind your public access show, and what are some of the memorable moments on it?**

At age 14, Steve Keirn and others thought I had a lot of skills and knowledge of the wrestling business behind me, so suggested starting my own LIVE TV Show.

We did that show for 8 years.

I had known the Johnson and Maivia Family for many years from interviewing Rocky and becoming friends with Leah Maivia over the years. Rocky Johnson came up to me and said "I want you to have my kid on the show". This was a young Dwayne Johnson, who had just started playing for the Miami Hurricanes. I told Rocky we had a few minutes for Dwayne. I now kick myself that I only gave 5 minutes to "The Rock"!

Another show we had, my guests were Dave Meltzer, Alex Marvez, and Paul E. Dangerously (Heyman). My co-host was Jim Ross.

I was a kid I sometimes asked stupid questions and sometimes the worst ones at that. My question

to Paul was "Who was the most influential person in your career?" in my young nervous voice. He said "Well, Shannon, you, of course".

That was my first meeting with Paul E. as one day many years after that he gave me a tryout with ECW.

> **Wrestling Press: What do you remember of the moment when Gordon Solie and Dusty Rhodes approached you to work in Florida as a ring announcer? Were you in awe of these two legends, and did you follow Florida Wrestling growing up?**

Honestly I was not a fan of wrestling until the age of 11 so I was not up on the background of Florida wrestling outside of watching WWF. I brushed up over the years and you can pretty much ask me anything on pro wrestling past to present and I can answer it.

I remember the first angle I saw was when John Studd cut the hair of Andre the Giant.

> **Wrestling Press: What are some of the memorable moments from your radio show?**

We had many. My co-host for the radio show was Barry Horowitz for many episodes.

He moved onto other things and filling in his slot was Road Warrior Hawk.

Hawk was great to work with.

I would say the best show we had was the one with Ric Flair.

Gene Okerlund, Bill Apter, and Dave Meltzer also did regular segments on the show.

I remember one Christmas we decided to have some fun. I pulled out my rolodex, cranked up the Christmas Music and started coldcalling everyone. We called everyone from my family to pro wrestlers. I remember chatting with Roddy Piper, One Man
Gang, Lord Alfred Hayes and the funniest, of course, was the Iron Sheik.

> **Wrestling Press: You worked for ECW at one point. How did that come about, and what was that promotion like to work for?**

I had worked Florida and a few spots outside of Florida as ring announcer for many years. I had become friends with Fonzie and chatted with Paul Heyman a number of times.

Shannon (left) calling the action.

Their ring announcer could not show up and I did not find out I was for sure working until they let me in the building 5 minutes before the show started.

It was incredible and scary as I tried to get out of the way of Sabu and the Dudley's as they threw a guardrail and various other items laying around.

During the Dawn Marie match, she was doing the Bytch gimmick, and was selling how I was scared she was going to yell at me for messing up her name.

The Sandman called me to the curtain, they were very cautious on who was in the back, Taz pops his head out and says "Brother don't be nervous, it's okay".

> **Wrestling Press: What are some of the wildest things you've experienced or witnessed during your time in the wrestling biz?**

Well, I've had items thrown at my head by the Sheik, Southern Posse heaving me off a table and me doing a flip in mid-air, and been hit in the head by a briefcase by Ron Niemi. The best time would be when I was given the spikes by Hawk and on MORETV32 in Tampa (during my local insert on WWF Challenge) I had a chance to tell Hawk, "Tell'em Hawk".

> **Wrestling Press: Tell us a bit about EDS, how it affects you and how you were diagnosed.**

I was diagnosed at age 2. The doctor tried to pick me up and I would not go with him. I would

run and just fall. I went to my paediatrician and he could not figure it out so they sent me to Dr. Kouseff at USF in Tampa, Florida. He found that I had EDS by simply looking at me, no biopsy, no DNA Test, just simple observation.

At age 12, one day waking up my left arm was paralyzed, it was like the color of meat. No feeling, no movement, it was scary, real scary. I remember my dog trying to pick it up with his nose as animals sense bad health.

I was sent everywhere from Miami Children's Hospital to the Mayo Clinic Hospital in Rochester, Minnesota. The Doctors at Mayo could not figure out what was wrong and even flew in a World Renowned Neurologist, Dr. Peter Dick from Germany.

I HAD A CHANCE TO TELL HAWK, "TELL 'EM HAWK"

I remember them doing an EMG which is in 2 parts, 1 part shocking the nerve and the second part sticking a pin down to the nerve to see if it works. Not pretty.

My Dad (who is my best friend) was sitting in the testing room looking on as they did the EMG. They started inserting a needle down my spine and he started tearing. I said "Dad, don't cry, it does not hurt".

I never let things affect me. I am the best person to give tests to. I mentally would always battle back in everything I did. I lost my voice for a year, had a loud cough for a year, and various other odd things happen to me BUT I never let any of these things defeat me.

My words are very clear "I NEVER say I can't but I WILL"

> Wrestling Press: Doctors didn't give you much hope of living a productive life. How then were you able to do all that you did?

I had spirit. I had pro wrestling. I had the will to keep pushing through and past whatever was against me.

> Wrestling Press: What message would you want to get out to other sufferers of EDS?

1 in 15,000 have this condition. Clinical symptoms such as extreme joint looseness and unusual skin qualities, along with family history, can lead to a diagnosis of EDS.

The outlook for individuals with EDS depends on the type of EDS with which they have been diagnosed. Symptoms vary in severity, even within one sub-type, and the frequency of complications changes on an individual basis. Some individuals have negligible symptoms while others are severely restricted in their daily life. Extreme joint instability and scoliosis may limit a person's mobility. Most individuals will have a normal lifespan. However, those with blood vessel involvement, particularly those with EDS vascular type, have an increased risk of fatal complications.

For more info go to Ehlers Danlos CARES Official Website at http://ehlersdanlosnetwork.org

> Wrestling Press: Is there anything else you'd like to say to readers of the Wrestling Press?

I now own a PR Company where I represent a number of big name clients and you can see more of them at http://mediaproductions.tv

I am also the voice of Pro Wrestling Fusion and their website is at http://prowrestlingfusion.com

Also, my personal site just opened at http://imshannonrose.com

Thank you for this opportunity and as I close out my events. I will see you at the matches!

WWE FAMILY CROSSROADS

| By DUSTY WOLFE - dwolfe414@msn.com |

Dusty is a 20+ year veteran of the squared circle, six of those years being with the WWF and the remainder with promotions from all over the world !

Dusty's title history

- South American Heavyweight title;
- South African Heavyweight title;
- United States Tag Team titles w/Tim Horner;
- Mid South Heavyweight title (indy version);
- PWI (San Antonio) United States Heavyweight title;
- WCCW Heavyweight title (90's Arkansas version);
- WWC World Tag Team titles w/Mohammed Hussein;
- WWC Carribbean Tag Team titles w/Galan Mendoza;
- NWA-SW Television title;
- CWF (New Orleans) Heavyweight title;
- IWF (South Texas/Mexico) Heavyweight title;
- FWF (Belgium) Tag Team titles w/Rob Raw defeating Gabriel Angelfire & Dr. Gangreen.

info from www.obsessedwithwrestling.com

Here we go again.

I opened my email this weekend and was met with my reminder for this month's article. After reading all the messages going back and forth, I am now secure in one thought; I'm not the only TWP writer that goes brain dead when we get "that" message from our version of 'M'. And yeah, I do live like a double nought spy.

One of the biggest news stories in the wonderful world of wrestling is Shane McMahon resigning from the WWE. I have heard so many different stories and theories, I have to wonder about the sanity of those spouting all this. And more importantly, my own sanity for listening.

Shane's departure, on the surface, does not seem to be some radical reaction to behind the scenes problems. If they were, why wait months? Why not just go home now? I hear all the stories about Steph and Shane not getting along. Again, if this was the case, why wait months? Just go now. But Shane is not doing that.

I had a laugh with a buddy over this whole situation. We were imagining what life was like if Shane just dropped this issue on Vince unannounced. How many holes in the wall were being repaired? How many trash cans were being salvaged from the street? How many windows did those trash cans go through? And we both agreed, Shane's announcement is part of a bigger plan.

Shane was the prince of all things media in the WWE kingdom. Sadly, Stephanie is in charge of writing. I have always wondered about that dynamic with HHH, but that is another story. Linda McMahon has announced her run for the Senate seat from their home state of Conneticut. Shane is not really needed for anything to do with the one screen product, and the less time he spends on screen beating up three top heels at once, the better. Everything Shane has done in the past can be done by others. AND Shane can, and will, consult if needed. Shane is stepping down from his position simply to help run his mother's senatorial campaign.

Taking everything into context, this whole scenario is very intelligent. Shane uses his knowledge and connections to run a state of the art campaign for his mother. Stephanie and HHH consolidate their power in the company further. With or without problems between the McMahon children, **Shane NOT being around does make life simpler for Stephanie and HHH**. If Linda wins, which I hear is unlikely, Shane stays on his mothers staff, Vince retires shortly after her taking office, and the WWE becomes Stephanie's and HHH's. If Linda loses, Shane goes back whenever he choses. Vince is still the king of rasslin entertainment, Stephanie is still writing garbage surrounded by some good talent, and life goes on.

I know so many were hoping for some sort of lurid saga of money, bimbos, booze, and general tomfoolery. Well, at least some of us older guys were. But..this just does not appear to be the case. It would shock me to find out this is anything more than family taking care of family.

CURSED MISSED OPPORTUNITIES:

FOUR 'WHAT IFS' IN PRO WRESTLING

By JOHN M. MILNER - docmilner42@hotmail.com

In every sport, in every field of entertainment, even in history and science, people explore the possibilities of "What if?" Novelist Harry Turtledove has made a career of taking "What if's" from history and spinning them into fascinating fiction. What if Mitch Williams had struck out Joe Carter in Game 6 of the 1993 World Series? What if Oswald had missed? What if Pam hadn't turned Jim down at the end of the Office's second season?

Things are no different in pro wrestling. Many a fan has spent many an hour pondering "What if McMahon/Crockett/Bischoff/Jarrett, etc had done things differently?" What if they had pushed this wrestler or not given the title to that wrestler?

In this issue of *The Wrestling Press*, we will take a look at four such "What Ifs". Four things that pro wrestling as a whole could have done differently. Perhaps the industry would still be exactly where it stands today had history taken a left instead of a right. We'll never know.

WWE's Invasion Angle

Why not start off with the storyline that soured most of the IWC on WWE? With both WCW and ECW closing down months earlier, the WWE decided to bring back both organisations. But instead of establishing each promotion as their own brand within WWE; WCW and ECW joined forces as another rehash of the NWO, an angle WCW itself had run into the ground over the past five years.

For about an hour on an episode of Raw in 2001, it seemed as if wrestling was on the cusp of its most exciting angle ever. WWE vs. WCW vs. ECW. The war wouldn't be over something ambiguous like ratings or buyrates. We would see the three major promotions of the 1990s clash inside the ring.

Common sense dictates Vince McMahon was not going to allow WCW and/or ECW win the war against his WWE. However, done right, this feud could have built up both WCW and ECW to the point where it would have made sense for them to become their own brands within WWE (pre-dating the brand extension). At the very least, it would have made for some pretty good television over the next few months.

THE REBIRTH OF WHAT PAUL HEYMAN CALLED THE "TRIBE OF EXTREME"

Only, we never got the promotion-wide three way dance. Instead, what we got was ECW, the little promotion that could, teaming *with* WCW, the big promotion that couldn't. For me it was this union, the Alliance, that spoiled the Invasion more than anything else.

In the end, in a move reminiscent of WCW absorbing the trend-setting UWF in 1987, ECW (temporarily) and WCW (permanently) disappeared from wrestling's landscape, in favour of WWE.

WCW's New Blood

In April 2000, WCW declared a promotion-wide "reset" in which all the titles were vacated and all feuds and storylines were forgotten. On April 10th's Nitro, Eric Bischoff and Vince Russo announced they were forming "the New Blood", which included Jeff Jarrett, Booker T, Crowbar, Kidman and Vampiro among others. The New Blood, they said were tired of being held down by the Millionaires' Club, which included Hulk Hogan, Ric Flair, Sting, Lex Luger, Kevin Nash and Scott Hall. The New Blood, they said, would unseat the established veterans who didn't want to make way for the younger talent.

It would have made sense, Bischoff and Russo's involvement notwithstanding, for the New Blood to be

booked as faces, battling the heel team of the Millionaires' Club. The age-old storyline of a talented youngster overcoming obstacles to prove his worth against "the Old Guard", despite tremendous opposition, is nothing new to wrestling or, for that matter, TV shows, book and movies.

The New Blood storyline could have been a boon for the careers of many of the young wrestlers who had spent years toiling only to be passed over in favour of the Hogans and Lugers. But instead, WCW chose to book the Millionaires' Club as the faces, making the New Blood the heels, as if there was something nefarious in hard working talent like Kidman wanting a bigger push.

By July 2000, the New Blood angle was done.

Sunday Night Heat

This choice might be a bit surprising, and the one most likely to not really have changed the wrestling landscape. But it remains an opportunity the WWE never took full advantage of.

From 1998 – 2008, Sunday Night Heat ran on several different networks, and finally on WWE.com. The importance of Sunday Night Heat fluctuated throughout its 10 year run. Sometimes nothing important happened on the show; it was like a recap show with a new match here and there. At times, there were storylines that ran only on Heat (Stevie Night Heat, for one). Other times, it served as a preview show for the night's pay-per-view.

But there's an argument to be made that the WWE should have used Heat as a way to build up interest in Raw, more so than it did. The WWE could have begun angles on Heat that continued on Raw. In situations where matches had been announced for Raw, the participants could have appeared on Heat and built up...well, Heat, for the bout. In short, Sunday Night Heat could have provided a 24-hour lead-in to Raw. Fans, relaxing in front of the tube, would have had something to look forward to, going into their work/school week.

The New ECW

When the WWE promoted ECW's One Night Stand pay-per-view in 2005, many fans believed they were seeing the rebirth of what Paul Heyman called "the Tribe of Extreme". It would take a year and another "One Night Stand" pay-per-view before ECW became the third brand, alongside Raw and Smackdown.

At first, it seemed as if this was what many wrestling fans had been longing for since the original ECW closed its doors in 2001. ECW alumni such as Tommy Dreamer, Sabu, Balls Mahoney, Rob Van Dam and the Sandman had reunited, in what looked like an opportunity to give fans an alternative to what the other two brands were offering.

But it wasn't to be. Instead of feeding old ECW fans' desire for hardcore violence, WWE watered down ECW. A few "Extreme Rules" matches aside, the action in ECW was soon as PG as the other WWE brands. Old school ECW fans soon soured on this new version of their beloved Land of Extreme.

To make matters worse, one by one, "the ECW Originals" were soon *future endeavoured*. The ECW roster of today bears no resemblance to that of its glory days of the mid-to-late 90s. Tommy Dreamer remains standing alone to represent the old guard of ECW.

In the fall of 2009, ECW is ECW in name alone. But that's not to say ECW shouldn't have a place in WWE. In fact, in the next issue of *The Wrestling Press*, we will take a look at "What WWE Should Do With ECW".

CAN YOU THINK OF ANY OTHER 'WHAT IFS'? LET US KNOW AT ed@thewrestlingpress.com OR ON THE FORUM AT www.thewrestlingpress.com

ALL STAR PERFORMANCE

My first job was a hotel receptionist straight from college on an apprenticeship training scheme. One of the most important lessons that I have ever learnt was as a result of that training, and one I refer to so many times even today.

What lesson is that I hear you cry?

It is quite simply as front of house staff you are the first person the guest will see and first impressions count. If you fail to make a good impression, everything else will be tainted. Make a good impression on the other hand and the guest will be more welcoming to other aspects of their stay.

The same rule applies to wrestling. Everyone knows you are there to see the wrestling, but if you have an MC that sounds like they don't want to be there and cannot be bothered by the matches, do you expect to have a good time? Very doubtful. Yet if you have a lively MC who comes out full of enthusiasm and builds up the fans expectations, you're more likely to have a good night.

By **PWPFROG** - froggyllc@aol.com

Photos **TONY KNOX** - www.tonyknox.org.uk

So having had some experience in the world of wrestling announcing and finding it one of the most nerve wracking things I have ever had to do, I thought I would seek out, in my opinion, the best MC in the UK to see how she does it.

That person is none other than ***Miss Letitia Allmark*** *of All Star Wrestling.*

The first time I saw Miss Letitia announcing was a few years back now and I was actually standing next to her father, All Star owner and promoter Brian Dixon. I was probably one of the very few people in the wrestling world who did not know she was his daughter. I had not long begun announcing myself and was still in my very nervous and self doubting phase. I took one look at how relaxed she was and how easy she made it appear and said to him, "My god she is brilliant at this, I totally suck at announcing." Bless him, he did not brag that of course she was brilliant, being his daughter an all, but smiled at me and went back about his business. Thankfully, upon meeting up with Letitia at an All Star show in Hanley, she was not as reserved and more than happy to talk about life growing up in probably Britain's greatest wrestling family and her relationship with All Star wrestler Dean Allmark.

> Have you ever wanted to do anything else other than wrestling considering that you've been brought up on it?

I have had other jobs but I think at the end of the day it was a forgone conclusion that in some way or form I was always going to end up doing this, as you say, I was brought up with it. Once wrestling is in your blood it's very hard to do anything else. The routine of the it, the travelling, the whole package, once you're hooked you're hooked. I have tried other things but it's a lifestyle thing, it's not a job, I wouldn't want to do anything else.

> So you did try other ventures before joining All Star?

I really went on my own way in life doing different things but then it got to a point where my dad was like why don't you come on the road for a little while and see what you think, and that was about fifteen years ago. I've never looked back, I was always going to do this, I love it. Absolutely love it.

> Did you go to University or want to go?

No, I never wanted to go to University. I started working as soon as I left school. My first job was nursing and I did that for a very long time, I always thought that would be my vocation, I enjoyed the helping side of it. Then I had a job selling cars but I got bored of that. That's when dad suggested that I join them on the road but he said I might not like it as it's a lot of travelling, but to be honest I've been travelling in cars on long journeys since before I could walk. I think you just get used to living a little bit like a gypsy! When my son Joseph came along things got a little bit more grounded for his sake but before then it was life on the road, you get home, wash your clothes then you're off again.

> Looking at your connections with wrestling, your mom is the legendary Mitzi Muller, have you ever wanted to step into the ring to wrestle yourself?

I used to train as much as we'd just got to the gym together just to work out but I was very young when my mom was still wrestling. We'd train but not in the way where we get in to have a pull about, I'm just a chicken, I don't do pain! That's why I'm more comfortable with a microphone, I don't get hurt but I still get the lifestyle.

> Being on the road from a very young age, do you have any memorable stories?

Yes, I was on the road from when I was three weeks old. I got passed from pillar to post.

On one occasion I had just started to go out with this lad, I was about sixteen years old and we were doing a show at Ellesmere Port close to where we lived. Mom and dad were like 'bring him along so he can meet everybody.' I arrived and mom was like "Your Uncle Luke is in the back he hasn't seen you in ages", Uncle Luke being Giant Haystacks. So this lad was already blown away from just being at a wrestling show and meeting them all and Luke's first words were "Oh my god look at you, I remember changing your nappies!" I was so embarrassed. I've promised I'll never say anything like that to anyone. Now my son is just the same, being passed from pillar to post.

> How old is he now?

He's four going on eighteen. He knows what he wants and how he wants it to be done. Plus he's wrestling crazy which is not a good sign! (Laughs)

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> Do you want him to get in the ring?

Dean and he wrestle all around the house and I scream at him "you hurt him and I'm going to kill you"! I want him happy so I'll support him with whatever choices he makes, if he gets in the ring them I'll be very proud and happy, but it's different when you're sitting there watching them when it's someone you love. I remember when my mom was wrestling and I recall never enjoying that part of the show as much as it was a worry from start to finish whether she was going to get out without any injuries. Same when Dean wrestles now, it's just much more difficult to watch when it's someone you love in there. In one match in Grimsby Dean was power bombed to the outside of the ring which was a concrete floor with no protective mats, Dean hit his head and he cried out to me that he couldn't feel his legs, we had to stop the show and call an ambulance. I had to get back in the ring and carry on with the rest of show. I couldn't leave to be with him. As soon as the show was over I rushed straight to the hospital, but that night was just dreadful.

> How long have you been announcing now?

Probably about fifteen years. The first time I announced was at Southport and I announced with another MC and getting into the ring I was more nervous announcing for the first time than I was about getting married. I can still get a little bit nervous even today depending on where it is, like if we're in Liverpool Empire which is a really big venue, and near home and there'll be a lot of friends and family in the audience, that makes it a little bit nerve wracking. I love it here at Hanley because they're a proper wrestling crowd, that don't want to listen to me babble on, they know what they came to see. I will adjust what I say to get the crowd going depending on where we are though.

> Whenever I've seen you announce you are always confident and you seem to have a routine that gets the crowd going, how long did it take you to get to the stage where you were comfortable doing this?

It's the same as everything, practice just makes perfect. The more frequently I was doing it the easier it became. I think that's where the calmness took over. There is nothing worse than getting in there nervous because as soon as you speak into the microphone you can't hide nerves in your voice. I think it's just progressed from that first show, god my voice was just shaking, and it was just getting used to walking out in front of all the people. I mean you're the first person that they see. I've always said about every show you get the presentation right you're 99% of the way there already so it's just a case of holding my nerves. Thankfully there is not many places I get nervous anymore, it's more a little bit of adrenaline!

> Have you ever encountered problems with wrestling being a male dominated world?

Errrm, yes! I think to get your respect you have to give your respect which I do. I have a lot of respect for what these guys do, they are on the road seven days a week, they're putting their bodies on the line

every night, you respect them for the athletes that they are. But then you gets the ones who think maybe they are better than the rest, or come from overseas and have a bit of an attitude, but the way that I deal with that is because of my position not just with my ring announcing but also All Star because of my father, I try not to use that against anyone, however I'm quite a strong person, I won't be put down by anyone. I try to treat everyone the same from the person who puts up the ring to the star of the show. That's how you get respect, treating others the way you wish to be treated back. However if I have ever encountered any problems I've always ironed them out myself. I wouldn't have a row with someone and then go back to my dad and say I've just had a spat with so and so because you don't get your respect that way, nobody likes a snitch. I'm strong enough to sort it out myself. Doing that over the years I've got my respect so much so that if we've got two shows on the same day my dad can be running one show and I'll be running the other and I don't get any problems there, I just say what I want and how I want it done. Thankfully it's all alright, I just cross each bridge as I come to it. The bigger they are the more I shout at them!

> Do you find that the female wrestlers come to you more if they need to discuss anything?

Not necessarily, it's not often that we have females wrestlers on the shows and the shows are usually mainly male dominated. But there are not many wrestlers that are not nice to be around. I'm always happy to see the wrestlers and we're always happy to come to work, it's not often that you get up on Monday morning and think that you're happy to go work. It was like last night we had our return to Grimsby and it was exciting to be back, and it's the same being back here in Hanley, how often can you say that about your work?

> Would you like to see more female wrestlers on the shows?

I would. I mean from the days that my mom wrestled it's totally changed. Back then the women's matches would be top of the bill and quite rightly so, they had a deserved place to be there. Now the women's wrestling has evolved so much I think they are trying to be like the guys rather than separate themselves. There are not that many great lady wrestlers unfortunately now in England. We try to encourage the girls in our training school because you know, we need them, we have got a place for them there. It's like tonight we have got a women's match on and 90% of the crowd will be pleased to see them there, we've got Lisa Fury who is from Liverpool and she's stunning and people like to see that but it's got to the stage where it's like it's two pretty girls wrestling like guys, where years ago when I was growing up it wasn't nothing like that. You know, you had the Klondyke Kate's, the Hellcat Haggerty's and other legends like my mom also. But overall we would love to have more females wrestlers on the shows and we are actively encouraging more girls to come to the training school.

IF YOU'VE GOT THE HEART AND DETERMINATION EVERYTHING IS ACHIEVABLE

It's like with Kate, she's just come out of retirement now, she's still going and she is such a fantastic gal. People will cheer her wherever she goes, for backstage entertainment, there is never a dull moment with her. She is absolutely larger than life and I love having her on the shows. In fact she was here last time and I put a sign on her dressing room door saying 'Welcome Back the Legendary Klondyke Kate' and she came up to me and said thank you so much for that, and I was like how do you know it was me, and she was "I knew it would be you", bless her!

> How often do you run the training school?

It's every Sunday at the moment, 10am till 4pm. We have two classes, one for the 10 to 14 years olds and another for the over 14's. Obviously it's very gruelling and you have to be careful what you're showing them which is why we have the two groups. It's about learning respect with the older group too, for the youngsters it's not as gruelling. But we've had some good ones come through, (pointing down to the ring) we've had Gladiator himself come through with untold fame ahead of himself now about to depart to America, he would travel up every weekend to our training school. There's TNT, two brothers that are doing well. When

you see these shy kids who've never done a wrestling move, well not legally anyway! You see them from day one to progress a few years later to having their first match and that's a real buzz, you're very very proud of them. It's good. Training depends on each individual, some pick it up really quickly, others it takes longer. It depends on how much they want it as well, you get some who turn up every single week regardless and then those who attend only occasionally. I've always been a firm believer that if you want something strong enough and you've got the heart and determination everything is achievable.

> How do you juggle being a full time mom with being on the road and helping run the training school as well?

Joseph is always the priority. He's just started full time education now so we will juggle the mid week shows between us as I don't want him being out late at night. Up until this point he was usually with us and we'd have to drag him out of the ring before the show starts. And he'll be with us at the weekends. Thankfully he loves this so it's not as if we're dragging him along and he can't wait to get here himself. Sometimes it can be tough but when you work for your father he can be very understanding and gives us our show list in advance and asks what we can and can't do so we're really lucky like that. It's a bit of a wrestling crazy family!

> The mind boggles at some of the situations that wrestling has probably gotten you all into!

One time we moved into our new house and my next door neighbour knocked on our door on the first day, so we had boxes lying everywhere, asking if he could look round our house as he said it was a gorgeous house and he'd always wanted to see it. I thought it was strange but I said ok and showed him around the house and in one of the spare rooms we just had a few boxes in there. So while I was talking to him his eye contact kept going and he kept staring at these boxes and I wondered what on earth he was looking at. When he left I went back upstairs to see what was in this box and sticking out was Dean's life size Spiderman costume and red knee high patent boots from when Spiderman was the big thing at the Butlins camps. I have no idea what our neighbour must have been thinking but he didn't speak to us much after that! It always amused me too when our washing line was out. Of course all the neighbours know what we do now mind.

> How many shows do you personally do yourself?

Normally about four or five a week. By the time you've finished the Butlins run at the end of the week you're clocked up another two thousand miles. Some people don't even do that in a year but we can do it in a week, some of the driving days are ten hours long and people don't realise that. The see all the glitz and glamour. Sometimes the wrestlers have a four hour drive to the venue, wrestle, then have a four hour drive back home. Fans don't see that side of things. You have to be passionate to do this otherwise you wouldn't want to be spending that long in a car cramped up.

> Is the travel one thing that you don't really like about wrestling?

I don't really mind the driving to be honest! I quite like driving. The key thing is not to think about it. If it was like my dad would say on Friday night you're at Hastings and I'm like 'oh we can't go to there' because of the eleven hours of driving that it entails, by Friday night I would have gotten myself worked up. So I don't think about it, by Friday night I just get in the car and we're off, doesn't matter where we're driving. It's amazing how much smaller England has now gotten. There are some places that I used to think were miles away and now we pass them and I'll think that wasn't really that far away after all. If a show is three and a half hours away that's a local show to us now!

CONTINUED IN DECEMBER
where Letitia discusses passionate fans, Robbie Brookside, Dave Finlay and more...

If you would like to make a donation towards Letitia's favourite charity, Derian House Hospice, you can find a link from their website which is **http://derianhouse.co.uk**

By PHIL AUSTIN - PhilUK1@aol.com

CHANGING WITH ... THE TIMES

When I'm not watching (or filming) professional wrestling these days, I'm watching old movies.

Since I got the book '1001 Movies You Must See Before You Die' last Christmas, I've been working my way chronologically through all the movies in the book. Starting in the turn of the century with silent classics such as 'A Trip to the Moon' and the Buster Keaton movies, I have now gotten as far as the mid 1950s where I have been entertained by the likes of James Dean's 'Rebel Without A Cause', the sci-fi classic 'Forbidden Planet' and movies from Alfred Hitchcock, Akira Kurosawa and other great directors.

One of the things I've noticed having travelled from 1900-1956 over the past 10 months is how much the styles of movies have changed and evolved. And it got me thinking about how much these movies reflect the times they were produced in. The 1950s brings somewhat more gritty drama, like 'Night of the Hunter' and 'Rebel Without A Cause', while the era of the Great Depression had movies such as 'The Grapes of Wrath' and other movies dealing with the difficulties and hardships families were going through back then.

So what has this to do with professional wrestling?

Well, if you take a look at some of the 'historical' DVDs that have been produced recently (such as the History of the WWE championship or the History of the Intercontinental Championship), you'll notice that the early matches on those DVDs differ greatly from later matches.

Take a match from 1960, and you'll notice a remarkable difference in how its put together to the matches from today.

So does wrestling reflect the audience it was aimed at during the time, and why do some matches age better than others?

To find out, we need to go back to the beginning. Not to the beginning of wrestling, but to the beginning of the television era.

Now this first era is particularly difficult for me to analyse. I wasn't born until 1970, so have very little experience of watching pre-1970s matches in context of the society of the time.

YOU COULD BE A TOP FLIGHT HEEL IF YOU CHANGED YOUR NAME TO FRITZ VON ERICH

In these early days of televised wrestling of the 1950s and 1960s, wrestling was very much a 'tough man's game' (and women as the recent Mildred Burke book demonstrates). Those who were seen in the ring as a success were perceived as people who could legitimately beat people up. And in the case of a guy like Lou Thesz, that was undoubtedly true.

Remember that this was a world that was still coming out of a Second World War, a war that had applauded the 'All American Hero' and who praised the heroism and machismo of the tough guy. So it was natural that wrestlers would be applauded for tough heroism in the defeat of their enemies.

But who were those enemies?

Names like Hans Schmidt, Kinji Shibuya and Mitsu Arakawa should give you a hint. Naturally, if you were a Japanese (or Japanese-looking) or German (or Germanic-looking) wrestler, you could carve out a particularly great career in the post-war years. Even if you were actually a good old Texan boy named Jack Adkisson, you could be a top flight heel if you changed your name to Fritz Von Erich.

But not all heels in these early years were based on the wartime 'bad guys'. As is reflected by the rise in horror, sci-fi and other movies exploring the 'unknown' in the post-war years, the public generally saw what they did not understand as something to be feared or despised. And that would explain the hatred of Gorgeous George. A man who went totally against the macho spirit that the wrestling audience wanted to enjoy, George would

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ANDRE COMMANDED A PRESENCE UNLIKE ANY PREVIOUSLY SEEN IN WRESTLING....

do everything in his effeminate power to rile the audience up. And they were more than willing to comply.

Changes in attitudes to race also helped black wrestlers begin to emerge in the 1950s, with the legendary Bobo Brazil leading the way as an immensely popular wrestler.

Wrestling as entertainment had arrived.

But it wasn't long before wrestling had to be more than just the basic wrestling matches of the past. The crowds demanded something more interesting for its money, and wrestling soon began to incorporate the more freakish elements into its product.

The 600 lb Haystacks Calhoun was one of these. A mainstay on the wrestling circuit, Calhoun was a huge man who, alongside other large wrestlers such as Gorilla Monsoon, drew the crowds to see him perform.

The swinging sixties had crowds pummelled with entertainment from all over, whether it be the rise in television, amazing new movies of that era, or the likes of the Rolling Stone and the Beatles drawing the teenage scene. So wrestling had to make things more 'wow' than ever before in order to gain its share of the TV and arena audience. These larger men were one way to do just that.

Meanwhile, wrestling promoters were also recognising that the US was a melting pot of different racial origins. Stars such as Bruno Sammartino were groomed to appeal to particular areas where Italian Americans, or other groups, were prevalent. And it worked, as Sammartino became one of the biggest stars wrestling had ever seen.

With wrestling needing to entertain more and more, promoters brought in more and more colourful characters as the 1970s began. In the US, this would include the Grand Wizard, and Superstar Billy Graham. While the UK would see Jackie Pallo, Big Daddy and Kendo Nagasaki wow the crowds.

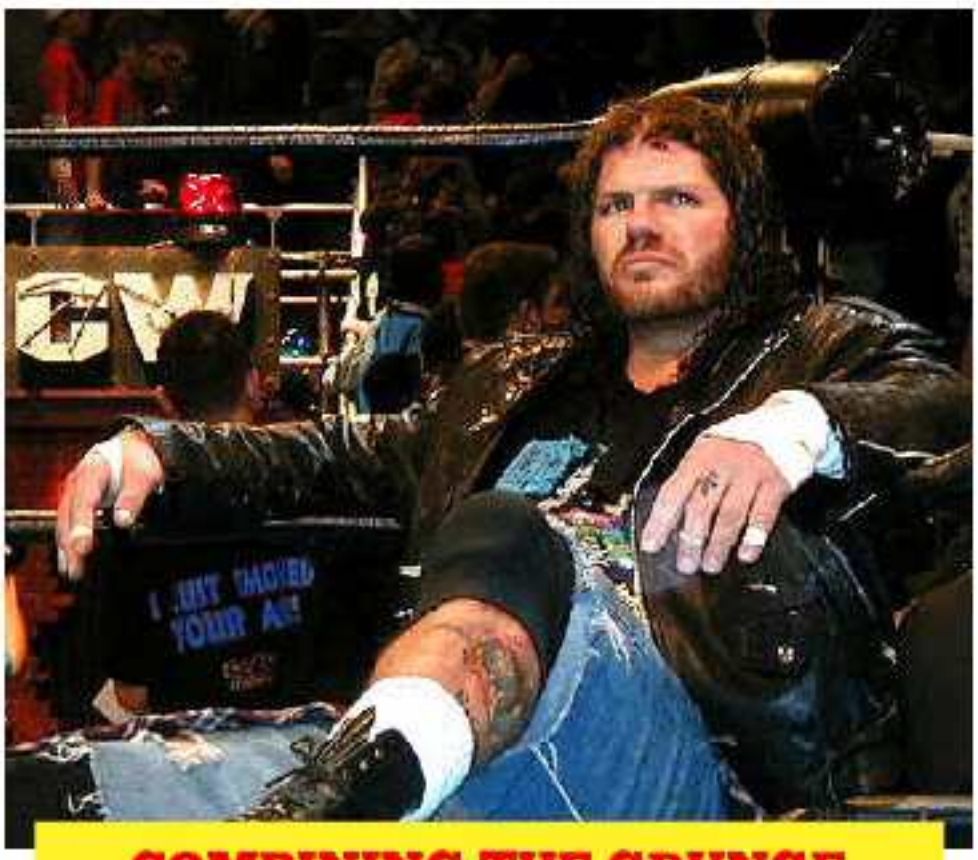
Wrestling was now entering a period where matches would be more athletic than before, with a wider variety of moves, and a pace that was significantly faster than their predecessors.

Then came Andre the Giant. Andre changed what most people thought of wrestling. A bona fide attraction, Andre commanded a presence unlike any previously seen in wrestling. Andre was a star beyond wrestling, and it may be argued that he epitomised the subsequent 'bigger is better' theory that wrestling began to hold.

The 1980s changed everything. MTV had created a generation who wanted pizzazz, colour and excitement. And wrestling, or at least the WWF, hooked onto that.

The Iron Sheik, himself one of the long-term obsession of promoters in presenting heels that reflected the enemies of their country (Iran was a feared enemy of the US at the time), had recently won the WWF title from All-American good guy Bob Backlund in controversial fashion in 1983. The crowd was horrified that such a hated foe of their country ("USA. Pah!") held the title.

Enter Hulk Hogan. Musclebound, glowing orange, and ready made for the TV generation who demanded action heroes and excitement, Hogan



COMBINING THE GRUNGE ROCK STYLE, HARD ROCK SOUNDTRACK AND VIOLENCE

was an instant star in the wrestling world above and beyond almost any star that had gone before.

The WWF promotional machine, lead by Vince McMahon Jr, went to work, pushing Hogan everywhere. And then there was the MTV Brawl To Settle It All.

Captain Lou Albano was the man to thank for all this. His relationship with Cyndi Lauper lead to an angle where he, the star of her hit 'Girls Just Wanna Have Fun' video managed Fabulous Moolah against a Lauper-managed Wendi Richter. Yes, stop and consider that for a moment....the biggest boom period of professional wrestling began with an angle building to a women's title match. If you think Shimmer has it wrong, you may want to read that a few times to yourself...

Wrestling was now bigger than ever. Wrestlemania was born, and the wrestler was now a superhero, marketed to a largely child-based audience, and presenting simplistic good *vs* evil storylines with easy-to-define characters.

At least that was in the WWF. The NWA was still presenting fairly bloody matches using wrestlers that an adult audience could find affinity with, such as Dusty Rhodes, the heelish Ric Flair, the Rock N Roll Express (for the teenage 'training bra' girls) and the monstrous Road Warriors.

As the 1990s approached, wrestling was starting to lose its lustre. Mainstream entertainment was becoming ever more 'adult', with the likes of Silence of the Lambs, Goodfellas and Reservoir Dogs providing far more violence than the WWF could.

Then came ECW. ECW tapped into the youth market perfectly, combining the grunge rock style, hard rock soundtrack and violence, violence and more violence that was being shown on TV and in cinemas at the time.

Of course, WWE picked up on this when WCW went 'cool' with the MTV-inspired NWO video packages and angles (including Raven attacking DDP on an MTV set while the Foo Fighters watched on bemused). The 'Attitude era' may have been a blatant rip-off of ECW, but it worked, bringing a whole new audience to wrestling. Wrestling was cool again, and fitted perfectly alongside other mainstream entertainment of the day.

Then it all ended. ECW and WCW disappeared. TNA was no competition. And the WWE became stale.

Much of the audience that wrestling once had became bored and insulted by the inane angles that were presented to them. The same 'car crash TV' element that had attracted them in the first place had failed to maintain their attention for an extended period of time (see also 'Jackass'). So the adult audience disappeared to the 'real' sport of MMA, giving the UFC a whole new audience and making that the new 'in thing'.

So what has pro wrestling done? It's gone back to its first real resurgence. As major movies are now almost solely franchise films aimed at kids, the WWE has decided that children are once again its target audience. John Cena, Rey Mysterio and others are tailor made for this. While their current 'must have' developmental talent is made up of a lot of musclemen, akin to the Hulk Hogan's and Ultimate Warrior's of the past.

Will wrestling's current style mesh well with a mainstream audience? Possibly, but with a cynicism in the mainstream audience these days, it may have its work cut out. Wrestling is currently seen as the 'uncool' older brother of UFC, and it will have to tap into the fabric of society once again in order to gain what it had in the 1980s and late 1990s.

By JOHN ATKINS -
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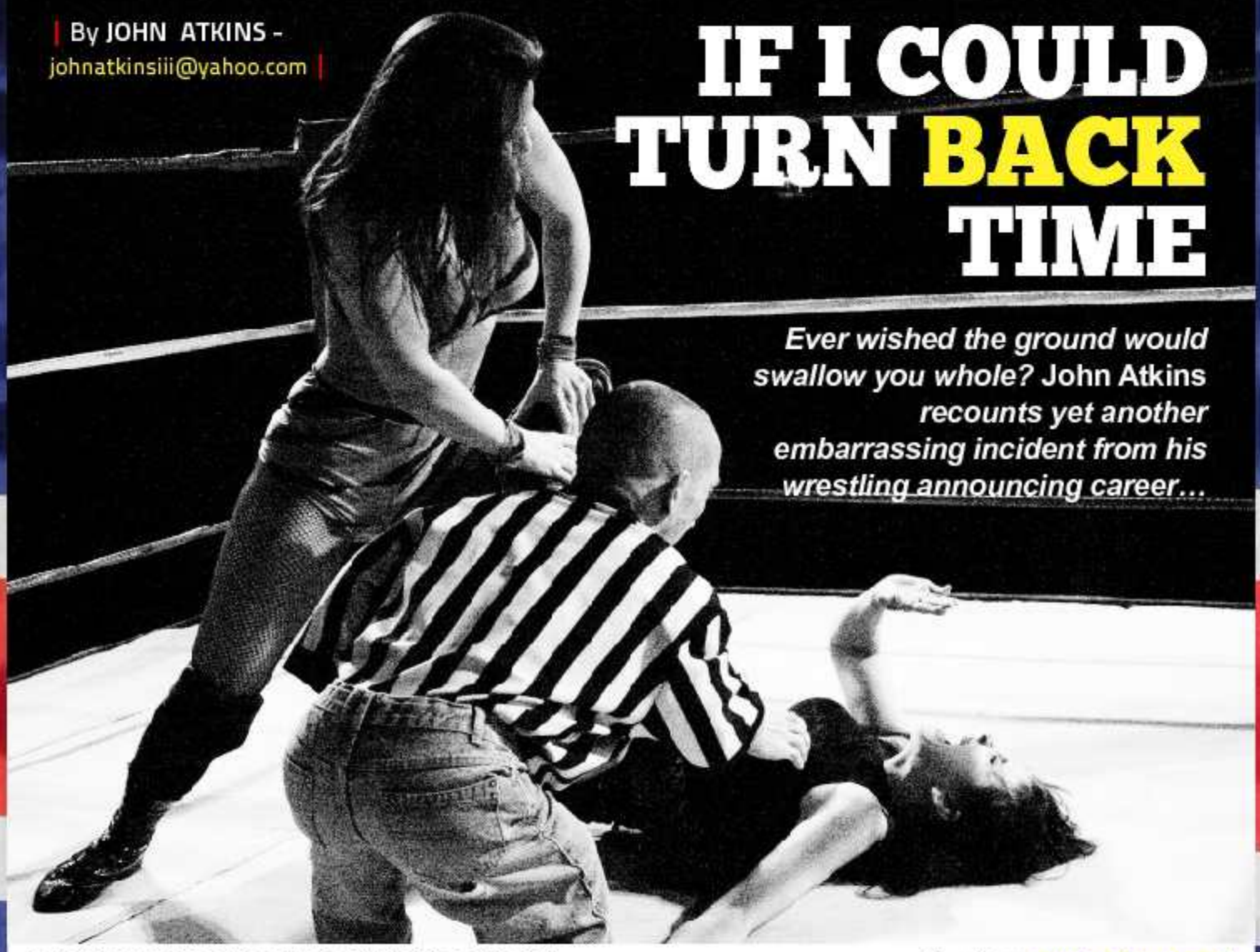
IF I COULD TURN BACK TIME

Ever wished the ground would swallow you whole? John Atkins *recounts yet another embarrassing incident from his wrestling announcing career…*



Sweet Saraya in action. Ref pictured is not John!

Tony Knox - www.tonyknox.org.uk

I used to be a ring-announcer for a one of the smallest companies in the UK, a little tin-pot outfit based just outside of Stansted. Every 6-8 weeks they would run a show in a community hall, and as there wasn't much going on in that neck of the woods, quite often all 60 or so residents of the village would attend.

The shows suffered many of the same issues a number of small companies do: poor promotion, low production qualities and a Paul Heyman-wannabe promoter who plastered himself all over the shows in increasingly inappropriate scenarios, insisting on being a heel despite being personal friends and neighbours with almost everyone in attendance.

Despite all this, they were occasionally quite fun. As it was only a small hall, if it was even three-quarters full you could get a fairly decent atmosphere going. Likewise, the sort of fans who would attend were not your typical 'smart' fans, but a throwback to the good old days – grannies, families, crazy old men, little kids etc – each of whom just wanted to have a good night out, cheering the goodies and booing the baddies. So even if the shows themselves were nothing to write home about, it could occasionally be a fun time.

As the ring announcer, I used to try and enjoy the show as a fan as much as anything. Therefore even though I would get a format in the afternoon with the winners and losers, unless the promoter

specifically mentioned that there was something I particularly needed to know, I tended not to look too closely at them and just be surprised by the results as they occurred.

Tony Knox - www.tonyknox.org.uk

Normally this worked out just fine. On one occasion, however, it didn't. A match was booked between Sweet Saraya and her daughter. Saraya was coming back from a very serious injury, her knee having been sliced open by a Coke can in a freak accident months earlier. The injury had kept her out for months, and I believe this was her first time testing it out in a match setting. "I suspect this won't last long", I thought to myself, as I completed the ring introductions. The ref whispered something to me about monkeys. *That's no way to talk about the Knight ladies*, I thought, and I sat down to watch the bout.

Half an hour later, the pair were *still* going, exhausted. The fans in the venue were exhausted. The match appeared to be lasting an inordinate amount of time – twice as long as it should have. It was almost as if they were doing everything... twice. I knew Saraya had a tendency to be stubborn, but it never occurred to me that she would want to test out her recently rehabbed knee in a 40-minute marathon. What was she playing at?

I looked up at the ref, who appeared to be rolling his eyebrows at me. I rolled mine back, attempting to pull off a look that said both "Tsch, women!" and "For crying out loud, tell them to go home!" without being seen by the crowd who, at this point it is fair to say, were allowing their attention to wander somewhat.

After about 35 minutes, the pair were still at it. The referee's glances at me were becoming ever more desperate, and his head was shaking. I tried some more conspiratorial eyebrow semaphore, in an attempt to see if he could hurry things along a bit, but to no avail.

With even my own attention now wandering, I decided to do something I normally tried to avoid at these shows, and got out my copy of the running order. Just who was meant to be going over? Were they shooting on each other? Which idiot booked this nonsense?

As I unfolded the piece of paper and looked down, I suddenly felt my heart jump up into my throat: "Saraya v Brittani – **15-minute time-limit draw**."

Shit.

Watching my professional wrestling career flash before my eyes, I tried desperately to think what I should do for the best. In the cold light of day, the best thing would probably have been to get on the mic and say something along the lines of "Ladies and gentlemen, this match is just 2 minutes away from its 45 minute time-limit". This would have brought the fans right back into the action for the finish, letting them believe that they were watching an epic encounter and at the same time subtly letting them know that it would soon be ending. It would also have told the two wrestlers in the ring that I had cottoned onto my mistake and that they should now revert to the planned finish.

All of this went through my mind in the blink of an eye. I knew that this was the best course of action for my snafu, and I would apologise sincerely and profusely to both wrestlers in private at the interval.

Unfortunately, there was a slight difference between what I thought and what I actually did. For some reason, I've always been a bit intimidated by Sweet Saraya, who had always struck me as somewhat...unstable. I had an image in my head – which turned out to be a terrible foreshadowing – that if I got on the mic and said she *still* had two more minutes to wrestle, she might just get out of the ring and land one on me there and then.

Blindly panicking, and without a word of warning to ref or wrestlers, I got on the mic, and after 38

minutes of 'action', simply said, "Ladies and gentlemen, this match has reached it's time limit! The result – a draw!"

A stunned silence fell over the crowd. Sadly, the silence did not last long. Without even waiting for the microphone, Saraya began *screaming* at me.

"What? This is a joke! I've been wrestling for 30 minutes and all of a sudden you call a time limit??!! This is an absolute joke!"

"Why didn't you tell me the time limit was coming up? I'd have tried to win – I wouldn't have put her in a rest hold!"

All fair enough so far.

"You're the worst ring announcer I've ever seen!"

I THINK WE MAY EVEN HAVE HUGGED LIKE TWO TRAUMA SURVIVORS

Again, I couldn't argue with that, based on what had just transpired, though I'd still rather have had that part of the conversation behind closed doors instead of in the middle of the ring.

But then things went from bad to worse, and I confess the rest is rather a blur. Seeing the red mist, Saraya – now with the mic, which believe me, she didn't need in order to get her point across to everyone in the building – began criticising *every single* aspect of the promotion.

Yes, despite being the conquering face, heroically overcoming the odds to return from a tragic accident, she appeared to genuinely turn herself heel in front of a crowd who largely had no idea what was happening.

She legitimately called out the promoter – already an 'on-screen' character, as it were, whose unnecessary appearances peppered the show anyway – and began running down and complaining about everything she could think of. As I slunk off backstage to let him deal with the situation – stopping only to tell him that she appeared to have lost it for real – I heard her telling him how everything just falls apart when her husband, Rowdy Ricky Knight, isn't there… and how he would 'sort everything out' when he was back down next month.

Folks, this was not a part of the script.

An interval was scheduled next, and I basically decided that as I was probably sacked, I might as well start to get changed. Brittani, mortally embarrassed by her mother's behaviour, had hid in the one backstage toilet, crying. I could hear Saraya continuing to lay into the promoter over the mic, verbally destroying him every step of the way, going totally, totally into business for herself.

By now I was in a trance-like state, not really fully cognisant of what was happening. Eventually the promoter came backstage, and I apologised to him, and said I totally understood if he wanted to replace me with immediate effect. Perhaps shell-shocked himself from the very public tongue-lashing he had just received, he appeared to sympathise with me, told me not to be silly, and reassured me that I would continue to be their ring-announcer. I'm not entirely certain, but I think we may even have hugged like two trauma survivors.

Eventually, Saraya and the ref returned to the backstage area. Terrified, I did my best to keep away from Saraya, but the ref had a twinkle in his eye.

"Didn't you hear me?" he asked. "Monkey's!"

"I'm sorry?" I replied, still completely bemused.

"Monkey's… Didn't you hear me?" he repeated, with increasing glee. "Monkey's paw – time-limit draw!"

Well, you learn something everyday, don't you?

Of course, about eight months later, the promoter *did* eventually replace me, out of the blue, for what *I'm sure* were entirely unrelated reasons – in my opinion in a particularly underhanded and unprofessional way.

But that's another fun story for another time!

John Atkins is an MMA announcer, former pro-wrestling announcer/commentator, and jobbing stand-up comedian. His first novel, Getting On Famously is available now, from Amazon.

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WRESTLERS OF
AAA MEXICO
Fighting for a good cause

Daniella Kaylin (Dark Kitty) a junior at CECyTEM has entered her second year in a school that has wonderful teachers but is in an auditorium. She knows that the school administrators and others in her city have tried for nine years to get a new high school built and now it's going to happen! The school is almost tripling in size every year and these youths need a real school to help better their education.

AAA

All my friends of Triple A Lucha Libre came to help

The government signed papers giving the school the land to build on and Daniella talked with the school administrators to allow her to promote a wrestling match using her instructor Guererro Universal and wrestlers he knows from the wrestling organization AAA. The wrestlers all agreed it was a great idea and openly agreed to do the show. All the money made by ticket sales as well as concessions, over 40,900 pesos, was donated to the school director.

Daniella was asked about her feelings of being a professional wrestler and has explained that she feels wrestlers owe their fans something everyday of their life. Being insulted by a former wrestler telling her she was not cute enough, nor had the breasts needed to be a professional wrestler, she responded in a very professional manner, *'I would like to tell you I am not interested in wrestling to be a model or to bare my body to make it to the top. I am interested in becoming a wrestler to give the youth of the world someone they can look up to, and be proud to know there are professional athletes that still hold the symbol of professionalism and love for the sport in their hearts, not in their wallets.'*

High flying moves were not enough to defeat the powerful opponents

As many of the top wrestling superstars involve their personal life in some kind of accomplishment, Daniella has decided her wrestling career will be dedicated to education. Showing the youth that your dreams can come true and satisfaction comes from what you can return to your fans. The first day she met Guerrero Universal he told her, 'Daniella, first comes

The cheque in the amount of 23,000 in ticket sales

That's what wrestling is all about, your fans

http://mexicodaniellakaylin.webs.com

your schooling and wrestling is a hobby', those words stuck in Daniella's mind and set her dedication to wrestling as an educational supporter to give back to her fans.

Today's world of professionals seem to have such a busy life they forget who made them famous, Their Fans!! Her dream is to be able to help cities build new schools, as well as having wrestlers visit the schools and talk with the youth about how important education will be in their life. Giving back that professional relationship with families and youths.

The evening event started with a match best two out of three falls between Tragedia, Blue Star, Nikita (three female wrestlers) vs. Gran Tauro and Destroller (male wrestlers) with the victory going to the women.

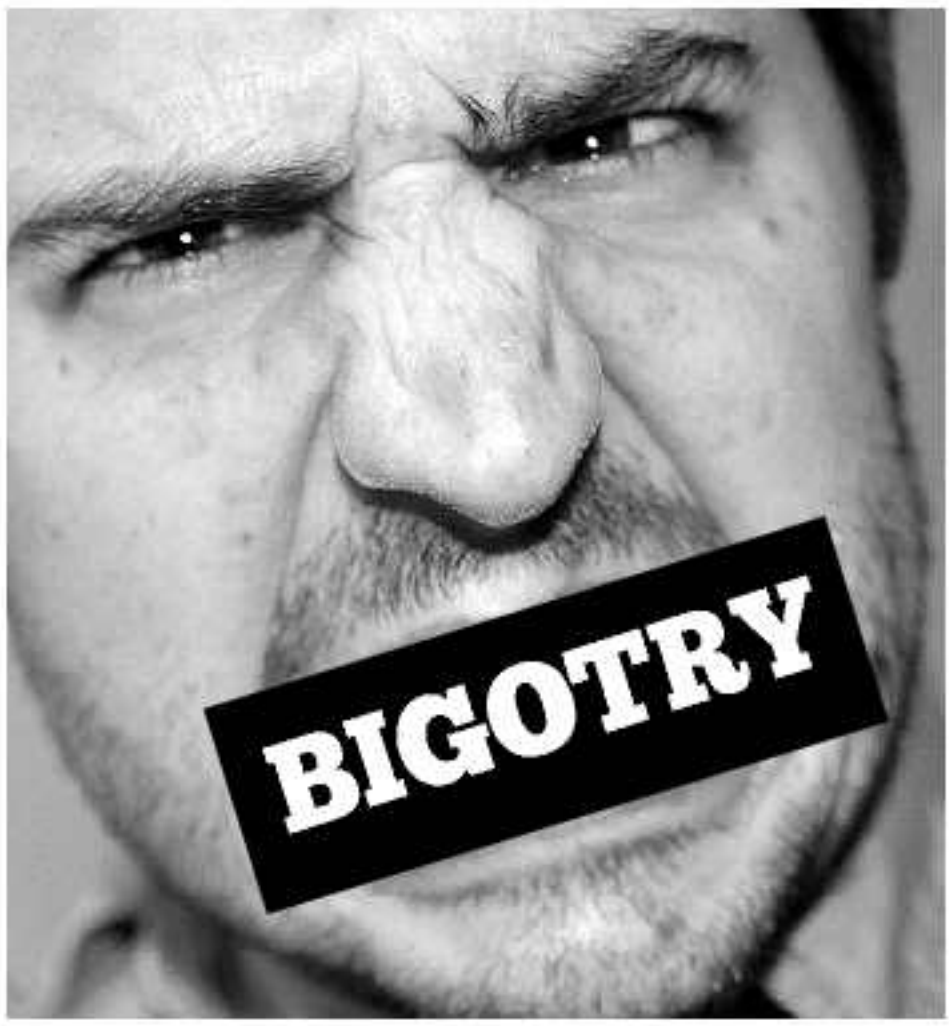
Second match two out of three falls between Mino Tauro, Cadaver, and Necro vs. Lobo de Plata, Arquero, and Ocaso with the victory going to Mino Tauro, Cadaver, and Necro.

Third match two out of three falls between El Chale, Chavo Banda, and Bugambilia vs. Galeno, Alcon Rebelde, and Chica Yeye with the victory going to Galeno, Alcon Rebelde, and Chica Yeye.

After this match Daniella, now known in the Triple A as "Dark Kitty", along with El Chale presented a mask autographed by all the wrestlers to Edder Alexis Hernandez Diaz, a young handicapped fifteen year old boy who loves watching wrestling. Also visited by Vengador, Cadaver, and Lobo de Plata. This presentation not only brought tears to the eyes of the young man but also to many in the auditorium as the two wrestlers gave a hug and showed just how much the audience means to the life of Mexican wrestlers.

Superstar match was two out of three falls featuring high flyer Rey Latino, Vengador, and Skuod vs. America, Crimen, and Orion with the victory going to Rey Latino, Vengador, and Skuod.

Dark Kitty says, "It's all about your FANS"



IN WRESTLING

| By STEVE ASHFIELD - mageditoruk@googlemail.com |

One of the ongoing battles in sport is the campaign against racism and homophobia. Neither have any part to play in society yet alone sport and most sports are doing their best to deal with the problem. So why therefore does professional wrestling not just condone racism and homophobia but actively creates an environment in which it can prosper?

Let's face it pro wrestling has always been racist and homophobic and sadly you can see why. It's the good v evil battle that wrestling loves to portray and if that means persecuting minorities then so be it.

Take a recent show in Bournemouth in which the face team of Jonny Storm and Wade Fitzgerald took on heels Mark Sloan and Mark Haskins. After a bit of banter Storm got the crowd to shout "gay boys" at Sloan and Haskins which of course they did (wrestling fans often resemble sheep of course and do exactly what they're told, sad but true). So therefore the hero starts a homophobic chant that the crowd join in with. This is something that happens all over the wrestling world and it just isn't right.

Homophobia and racism is wrong wherever it takes place. It's not logical for children to be able to shout 'gay boys' at a wrestling show and have nobody tell them it's wrong. If that's the case then why should they think it's wrong to do the same thing when they're in the playground?

Just look at how gay characters are treated in professional wrestling. From the days of Gorgeous George and Adrian Street through to Baxter Burridge, Goldust and Billy and Chuck it's the same old story. Flamboyant gay characters who are all after any man they can get their hands on and treated as figures of fun. That's all they are to the professional wrestling world and it continues to this very day with characters like Jules Lambrini and Glamour.

Having a gay character as a face is an interesting concept and one played for laughs. Just get some pink gear, a feather boa and a few effeminate minces and another gay character is born. What though if you turn them heel? All of a sudden the atmosphere changes and instead of the laughs the insults start to be thrown and homophobia has another home to wreak its havoc in.

One of the worst examples was Billy and Chuck and that infamous wedding ceremony that WWE showed on Smackdown. It said it all when the fans booed Billy and Chuck when they thought they were gay and then cheered them when they found out they were actually straight. Even worse was the fact that gay group GLAAD fell hook line and sinker for the storyline and even gave the happy couple a present. They haven't forgiven WWE since!

Racism has always had some kind of hold in professional wrestling. I've seen old British wrestling posters where matches were advertised as a "black vs.white heavweight match.' An old fashioned expression perhaps and you'd never get away with it these days would you? That didn't stop Premier Promotions recently putting out a press release that described Marcus Brash as a "coloured star." Promoter John Fremantle had to apologise for that comment claiming it was "old fashioned" rather than offensive.

It's always useful for promoters to use foreign wrestlers or pass someone off as a foreigner. I interviewed a wrestler called Butts Giraud from Canada who came over to the UK in the 70's and became a top heel passing himself off as a British hating American. Easy work because anything like

that always works in professional wrestling. In football booing the national anthem of the opposing country always causes commentators to rightfully complain. In pro wrestling booing a national anthem is almost compulsory. The BNP doesn't need to be on 'Question Time' – they just need to start a wrestling promotion. They'll be able to get us Brits to shout abuse at foreigners and gays and no one will bat an eye-lid.

All-Star are great at promoting UK v USA matches and getting the fans to boo the Americans. I guess they never quite worked out the logic of why they boo certain Americans but if someone like Tatanka comes along they can cheer till the cows come home. Guess Tatanka wouldn't be upset when he heard the crowd hating the Americans so much when he's not in the ring.

Pro wrestling loves to create evil characters out of real life situations. Cue all those German Nazi villains, American hating Iraqi's, Canadians and any country under the sun that isn't your own who you happen to have a dispute with. German wrestler Christian Eckstein recently appeared in the UK and of course had to be a heel. David Franklin, better known on the forums as 'Old David' put this on Facebook: "marvellous "crowd heat" - an evil German, we just love it!"

Of course a big problem is the lack of a Board of Control in the UK. In football there's been recent cases of racism and of course the Sol Campbell homophobia scandal from last season. As soon as anything like that happens the authorities voice their disapproval and take action and the police also get involved. In pro wrestling nothing happens at all. Sure it's entertainment but so is 'Eastenders' and 'Coronation Street' but if the characters spent their time being racist and homophobic it'd lead to viewer complaints or perhaps praise for dealing with such issues.

We'd all love to see British wrestling back on television but can you imagine that happening if there are going to be incidents of racist and homophobic chanting? Recent weeks have seen more reports of homophobic attacks with one man being killed and racist attacks are always being reported on the news. To cancel out such behaviour (which will sadly always occur to some degree) everything has to be done to stamp it out. Why can't pro wrestling just have villains who break the rules rather than creating evil outdated stereotypes. It's time for change.

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